

# THE TIMES

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MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

TODAY  
**10P**

**CHRISTMAS SECRETS**  
**A SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE OFFICE PARTY**  
Seven ages of seasonal fun and Jeffrey Bernard's tips **PAGES 16,17**

MELVYN BRAGG  
**ON MONDAY PAGE 13**

**15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT**  
**MANCHESTER UNITED VS WEST HAM**  
Match report **PAGE 25**  
**PLUS**  
Tennis and cricket **PAGES 26,27**

TODAY  
**10P**

## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TODAY**  
**12 WINS OF CHRISTMAS**  
Festive feasts with Fortnum & Mason hampers  
Premium live entry **PLUS** Matthew Parris, page 20 and Melvyn Bragg, page 18

**TOMORROW**  
**60 YEARS AGO...**  
The Times and the abdication crisis  
**PLUS** The Libby Purves column

**WEDNESDAY**  
**STYLE**  
How Cambridge students dress on a budget  
**PLUS** Interface, our weekly guide to new technology, Alan Coren and Nigella Lawson

**THURSDAY**  
**FILMS**  
Geoff Brown on 102 Dalmatians  
**PLUS** Books, Appointments and Dr Thomas Stuttaford

**FRIDAY**  
**POP**  
David Sinclair's records of the year  
**PLUS** The Valerie Grove interview

**SATURDAY**  
**TEARS AND TANTRUMS**  
Giles Whittell on Hollywood lovers  
**PLUS: IN THE DINETORY YOUR THREE-WEEK GUIDE TO TELEVISION SATELLITE AND RADIO THIS CHRISTMAS**

National interest comes first

## Major tells sceptics: I will not be bullied

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR warned Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the European single currency, telling his critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries "cheating" on the entry conditions. Fleeing the field when the game was being played would be a dereliction

that Mr Major would use the interview to spell out his personal doubts about Britain entering with the first wave, but he disappointed them. He did say, however, that Britain had no intention of going into a "flawed economic and monetary union".

On Friday, Sir John Gort with-drew support from the Government over a dispute about a casualty unit in his local hospital and ended the Government's majority for the first time in 17 years.

Mr Major said that in present circumstances any one backbencher could have his "moment of fame" if he wanted to be difficult on any particular issue. "Well the Government cannot be held to ransom like this and we are not going to be held to ransom like this. If they do not support us, then we may have a general election, but that is in the nature of politics. But I am not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

He added: "We have set out our policy and we are going to get it through. If we do not get it through, then we do not get it through. But I am not going to have the Government bending and weaving from the things it believes are right on the basis that somebody is trying a bit of pork barrel politics or a bit of arm-twisting of the Government because it has a small majority."

Any MPs who had that in mind would not get much warmth from activists up and down the country if they imperilled the Government's achievements because they had a "bee in their bonnet".

His words brought a speedy blast from one of the MPs who have been

Continued on page 2, col 4

Major warned, page 2  
William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris, page 20  
Leading article and Letters, page 21



Lucien Lawrence, the son of the murdered headmaster, with the Duchess of Kent yesterday, unveiling a plaque to his father. Page 4

## Britain sets out on a £23 billion shopping spree

BRITAIN yesterday embarked on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink, £700 million more than in 1995.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year.

John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people had visited the centre. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived soon after 7am — four hours before opening ... Page 6

## Kabul's starving sell human bones

Human bones are being sold in Kabul, Afghanistan's ruined capital, as children rob graves to get money for their starving families (writes Anthony Loyd). The bones are sent to Pakistan to make soap and chicken feed. An average man would fetch about 7,000 afghanis — almost 50 US cents ... Page 11

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## Student spots golden secret of card 772

By ALAN HAMILTON

IT WAS perhaps not quite in the league of finding a Leonardo at a car boot sale, but art student Peri Kemal-Ork was more than happy when she discovered yesterday that she had acquired a Frank Auerbach original painting for a mere £30. Especially when a similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount.

Peri, 27, a Turkish Cypriot living in London, turned up at the Royal College of Art to find that she had won the jackpot in an ingenious artistic lottery run by the college. Sixteen hundred artists, most of

them students, amateurs and other unknowns, submitted postcard-sized original works for an exhibition; but scattered about the walls were a handful of works by the famous.

All were unsigned, and all on sale at £30. Peri, who submitted an entry herself, took only five minutes to decide that she would buy picture No 772. It was a tiny streetscape, but its style looked familiar.

Peri had correctly spotted the Auerbach style. The Berlin-born painter, himself a former RCA student in the 1950s who works from a north London studio, is well known for his cityscapes, and they

are much prized: his postcard-sized entry for a similar blind auction last year was valued at £10,000.

Peri, who already has a fine art degree from Birmingham University and hopes to win a place at the RCA next year, said: "I was first in the queue when they opened the bidding. I looked at No 772, saw nothing else like it in the show, and decided it must be a genuine Auerbach."

But what would she do with her newly-acquired bargain? "I would love to keep it, but I am a poor student and I may have to sell it." All 1,600 works were sold, raising £50,000 for college funds.



Kemal-Ork spotted the Auerbach cityscape



TV & RADIO	46, 47	LETTERS	21	ARTS	18, 19	BUSINESS	41-46, 48
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	23	CHESS & BRIDGE	38	MIND & MATTER	14
CROSSWORDS	24, 48	PETER RIDDELL	20	COURT & SOCIAL	22	LAW REPORT	40



# Chilly outlook fails to discomfit conservatory party

It was a key interview at a key moment, surprising us with its steadiness. Years of studying the man should have taught us — so why does it always come as a shock? — that just when you expect John Major to sidle out from his bunker with his hands up, he comes out fighting?

Britons switched on their television sets for Sunday lunchtime's *On The Record* expecting to see a peeved and

defensive Prime Minister floundering in the face of a sadistic John Humphrys. Instead, Mr Major spoke as though disposing of a little local difficulty got up by the media, before slipping into Great Stukeley for a pint before lunch.

John and Norma's Huntingdon conservatory became an eye of calm at the centre of a storm of Cabinet rumour. Dr Brian Mawhinney's scooters on Kenneth Clarke's lawn?

Why, Mr Humphrys. "I don't know whether anybody in Britain has scooters these days." An imminent shift in the Cabinet's line on a single currency? "What a load of old nonsense!" Major was ice-cool and halfway convincing, his performance laced with a self-belief which, though quiet, was almost fierce.

Future students of current affairs will rerun the video of that interview searching for harbingers of the Tory recovery — or Tory collapse — which will now follow. They will say the talk was watched by millions. "Watched" — yes. But we listened only fitfully to the debate. What gripped the nation was the inside peek at the Major's conservatory. Was the cane furniture Ikea? Was



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

that a fern trained from the pot on the windowsill? "If the French are cooking the books..." insisted Humphrys — but what we wanted was a closer shot of the porcelain cat. "What a lovely weeping willow outside," trilled tens of thousands, as Mr Humphrys,

white-knuckled with conviction, pressed his point about economic convergence. "And the pond? It was so much bigger than we'd expected. The nation scanned the wavelets for ducks, but not a duck did we see. 'The French are fudging,'" said Humphrys — and, fleetingly, we caught the reflection of a figure in the window behind Major's head. Was it Norma? Or Elizabeth? Or James? Do the Majors have a home help? Would it be

Norma herself who threaded that climber so cleverly into a neat loop? Would Mr Humphrys get a chocolate digestive biscuit after the interview?

To such questions and many like them came no answers, as Major and Humphrys dined on about EMU, convergence and enlargement. By the end, even the most news-hungry journalist found his attention wandering to the impressive double glazing. For Mr Major,

the interview was therefore a success. Many years ago, while being presented by Margaret Thatcher with an RSPCA bravery award for rescuing a dog, I saw the dog seized by her leg. If she noticed, you would never have thought it. Her gracious expression in the *Sunday Express* photograph betrayed no hint of the indignity. Tory leaders learn to hide embarrassment where lesser mortals panic.

## Europhiles urge Major to look beyond his party

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A SUBSTANTIAL group of Conservative grandees and MPs join with other pro-Europeans today to warn John Major against trying to block progress in this week's Dublin summit on the future development of Europe.

In a radical policy plan, they call on Mr Major — and Tony Blair should he become prime minister next year — to bypass the Euro-sceptics in future by trying to secure all-party support in the Commons for any deal they intend to make.

Deeply suspicious that the Prime Minister is intending to take a hard line in Dublin because of his growing internal problems, Euro-enthusiasts from all parties have united to tell him that he is in danger of boxing himself into an impossible position that will damage Britain. They call for "confidence and daring" from ministers in their approach to Europe and opposition to the sceptics.

In an advertisement in *The Times*, the cross-party coalition suggested that the Government, or any future Labour government, should no longer seek to advance European developments by relying on their own supporters. Instead it should negotiate in the current inter-governmental conference — which reaches a critical stage in Dublin this week — with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as happened during the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

It tells Mr Major that he should not regard the veto as a "credible or cost-free option" and, among its specific policy proposals that will anger the sceptics, it calls on the Government to resist any temptation to attack or dismember the European Court of Justice. The declaration from the pro-

Europeans, organised by the European Movement, is regarded as their most important statement since Maastricht. It confirms their determination to take a much more aggressive stance in their battle with the Euro-sceptics, which was in evidence last week in their vocal support for the stand being taken by Kenneth Clarke on the single currency.

Some 80 national figures and 500 other supporters have put their name to the advert which attacks the present British attitude at the IGC as too cautious and dogmatic. They include Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Chancellor, and Foreign Secretary, Lord Gilmour, the former Tory Cabinet minister, Paddy Ashdown, Lord Richard, Labour's leader in the Lords, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Chancellor and SDP leader, Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, a number of former senior diplomats and five former European commissioners, including the Conservative Lord Tugendhat.

Sixteen Tory MPs have signed, including Edwina Currie, James Coughman, Tim Eggar, who resigned in

June as Energy Minister, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Jim Lester, Peter Temple-Morris and Sir David Knox. Lord Howe said last night that it was "imperative" for the Government to work constructively with its European partners at the IGC and elsewhere.

"That is the best way to advance British power and influence in the world. There is a large majority in Parliament and the country for such an approach. The Government should have the courage and confidence to adopt it," Lord Howe said.

"Britain's position in Europe has always been built on wide cross-party support in both Houses. It is important that the Prime Minister has that in mind. It represents a much more secure path to the future than having to rely on majorities composed from one party."

The advert says the Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". It says: "We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little, for Britain and for Europe as a whole."

It warns that Mr Major's advocacy of a multi-speed Europe, which has now led to Franco-German proposals for the establishment of an inner core "from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat."

It calls on the Government to work to ensure an agreed outcome at the IGC. "The Government risks boxing itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre." It says that under no circumstances in future should the Government rule out participation in a single currency.



Howe recommends "more secure path"



My lips are sealed: John Major preparing for his BBC interview yesterday

## 'National interest comes first'

Continued from page 1  
considering whether to resign the party whip over Europe. Terry Dicks accused the Prime Minister of ridiculing and insulting him. He was "ashamed and disgusted" by the Prime Minister's attitude towards him. Mr Dicks said: "I have never been so insulted ever than to be told that I was looking for my one moment of fame. I am seething. Right now I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his Government and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one." Mr Major asked whether

any of his critics seriously would prefer Tony Blair going off to Amsterdam in June to negotiate on behalf of Britain. Explaining why he so passionately defends the wait-and-see stance, he said: "If when the time comes they fudge the criteria, then I need to be at the table to argue against that. I need to be at the table to vote against those countries going into a single currency. What authority would I have at that table if I decided at this stage, when my critics say I am not going to be there to try and prevent them cheating?"

John Redwood led the procession of Euro-sceptics who voiced their unhappiness. He said that nobody denied Mr Major's claim that Britain should remain in the talks, but the way to achieve influence was to have a British opinion. "Is it not time for Britain to say if there is so much fudge coming out of Brussels the currency scheme will not work?"

William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris, page 20  
Leading article and Letters, page 21

## Leaders meet amid gloom over Ulster

By Nicholas Watt and Audrey Magee

JOHN MAJOR will hold talks with the Irish Prime Minister today amid gloom at the prospect of advancing the stalled peace process before the general election.

With Dublin seeking a compromise formula to put Sinn Féin on a fast track into all-party talks in the event of a second ceasefire, the Prime Minister said that he would not be taken in by a second "phony" cessation of violence.

Mr Major, who will hold the talks in Downing Street with John Bruton, the Taoiseach, admitted that he was not optimistic about the prospects for another ceasefire. "What I do not wish to see would be a phoney ceasefire — a ceasefire simply to score public relations victories and to try and have Sinn Féin parachuted into the talks without actually giving up the violence which has sustained the IRA for so long," he said.

"In retrospect we had a phoney ceasefire. We thought we had a real one and what did we subsequently find out? Within days of declaring the ceasefire Sinn Féin/IRA were filling garages in London with Semtex and explosives. That's not a genuine ceasefire."

Mr Major refused to give a timescale for when the Government would decide a ceasefire was sustainable and push for Sinn Féin to enter inclusive talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Asked how long he would wait before accepting that a ceasefire was going to be sustainable, Mr Major said on the BBC's *On the Record*: "I will not wait too long to see if it is to be sustainable — I am not going to give you a time. It depends on actions not on the passage of a few days or weeks."

But he warned: "I'm not going down a fake path again. We've done that and we were betrayed by Sinn Féin/IRA, who said one thing when they were doing another. This time it needs to be real." The Prime

Minister said that the whether or not the ceasefire was judged to be sustainable would depend on intelligence reports of terrorist activity rather than the passage of time.

Mr Major's caution about the prospect for a lasting ceasefire found support from a former MI5 mole within the IRA. Sean O'Callaghan, who has been freed from jail after serving eight years of two life sentences for murder, said the IRA would declare a tactical ceasefire before the general election but would not abandon its use of violence until it had achieved a united Ireland.

O'Callaghan, who is in hiding since being released from Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, is at risk from revenge by the IRA. As an informer for the Garda and MI5 in the 1980s, he is suspected of many of the IRA's terrorist operations.

O'Callaghan vowed yesterday to campaign against his "evil" former comrades who were duping the world into believing they were committed to the peace process. Speaking from his hideout, he told *The Sunday Times*: "Will there be a ceasefire? Yes. Will it be genuine? Not a chance. Republicans will murder many more people before this is all over."

He predicted that the IRA would renew its ceasefire before the general election in an attempt to lure the SDLP into an electoral pact with Sinn Féin. "If that happens, violence on a scale never seen before will be unavoidable. It is that serious. There is no possibility that the IRA will permanently eschew violence, short of victory." O'Callaghan said a 16-year-old boy in West Belfast had his legs broken in an IRA punishment beating. Two men took the boy to an alleyway in the New Barnsley Park area on Saturday night. They then tied him up with tape, hung him upside down from railings and beat him, breaking his legs.

## How Humphrys became an appetiser for Sunday lunch

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN HUMPHRYS was winding up the *Today* programme at 8.40am on Friday when the telephone rang in the BBC studio. Downing Street came on the line just as the programme switched to *Yesterday in Parliament* and John Major's humiliation at the dispatch box at the hands of Tony Blair.

Jonathan Haslam, the Prime Minister's press secretary, was on the line. He wanted to know if the long-standing invitation for Mr Major to appear on the programme *On the Record* still stood. He knew the answer before Mr Humphrys said yes. But there was one

stipulation from Mr Haslam. The interview had to be at Huntingdon because Mr Major was hosting a Sunday family lunch with Norma for their son James, 21, his girlfriend Elaine Jordache, the Major's daughter Elizabeth, 25, and her boyfriend Luke Salter, 24. It was to be the first in-depth television interview with the Prime Minister to be conducted at his own home.

Downing Street had been galvanised into action after a brief survey of Friday morning's headlines. They were the worst since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. Mr Major, who was in Huntingdon, told Mr Haslam on the telephone: "Get me on the television." It had been a torrid 24 hours. After Mr

Major's mauling at the dispatch box, more difficulties were to come. John Ward, his Parliamentary Private Secretary, came to see him the same night with a written report of the meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee. It was depressing reading for Mr Major. Even traditionally loyalist troops were reaching the stage of mutiny. An opinion poll showing the Tories 37 per cent adrift irritated Mr Major even further as it conflicted sharply with the party's own private findings.

Mr Major had a brief discussion in Downing Street with Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. He had already broached the idea of a fightback with Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. The Prime Minister went to Huntingdon late on Thursday. When a summary of the newspaper cuttings were delivered to his home, the Finings, his mind was made up. The media counter-offensive swung into action.

Some mischievous aides of Mr Major thought that the timing was ideal. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had gone away for a long weekend with his wife Gillian. The break was at her behest. It meant he was out of reach of the press. Invitations were in Mr Haslam's desk from big-name interviewers, including Sir David Frost. But Humphrys, the anchorman of the *Today* programme, was the Prime

Minister's choice. One week earlier Humphrys, one of the toughest political interviewers, had spent a convivial evening with Mr Major at the Australian High Commission. It was a fundraising evening for the Newspaper Press Fund, which helps journalists who have fallen on hard times. Humphrys is the chairman. Mr Major, in a light-hearted speech, poked fun at his BBC sparring partner. Humphrys responded in kind. But the last laugh was on Mr Major.

When the dinner ended, Mr Major and Humphrys, who were still locked in conversation, asked for a beer. Humphrys had to admit that, surprisingly for a journalistic

gathering, they had run out. Neal Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner, rescued the situation. He disappeared into the cellar and returned with reinforcements. Before they parted that night Humphrys reiterated his wish for Mr Major to come back on to his show.

Mr Major agreed to ponder the request. While some ministers object to Humphrys's aggressive style, the Prime Minister is said to relish the fight. It was significant that last year, having triggered the leadership contest, he chose Humphrys's programme to argue his case the following Sunday.

The BBC arrived in Huntingdon at 8am. Humphrys showed up one

hour later at a breakfast with his production team at the Bridge Hotel, a short drive from the Prime Minister's home. A similar breakfast was going on at the same time in Mr Major's house with Mr Haslam and Howell James, his political secretary, to rehearse the answers for the 50-minute interview.

After the interview, recorded an hour before it went out, Mr Major introduced the presenter to his wife and family, who were gathered in the large kitchen, and showed him the new goldfish pond. Humphrys said afterwards: "He was in fighting form. Grown up politicians like a tough interview."

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# Fiancée of 'road rage' knife victim is held by police

By DANIEL MCGROK

THE fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey was under police guard in hospital last night after she was arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road a week ago.

Detectives are waiting for doctors to decide whether Tracie Andrews, 27, is well enough to be questioned about the murder, which she told a televised press conference came after a violent confrontation with another driver.

Miss Andrews had been in hospital after taking an apparent overdose and returned to the flat she shared with Mr Harvey in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, on Saturday where police were waiting for her. She was taken to Redditch police station but after being examined by two doctors they decided she should be readmitted to hospital, describing her as being in "a dangerously emotional state".

Her mother and stepfather, Irene and Alan Carter, have been allowed to visit her and are looking after five-year-old Carla, Miss Andrews's daughter from a previous relationship. As the police vigil continued at an undisclosed hospital forensic teams searched for the murder weapon alongside Coopers Hill, Alvechurch, where 25-year-old Mr Harvey was found dead with 16 stab wounds. Thirty officers questioned motorists at eight road blocks on the route taken by the couple.

West Mercia police are also questioning friends and relatives of the couple about their relationship which has been described as "stormy and tempestuous". Although the couple planned to marry in summer a close friend of Mr Harvey said: "Tracie was always throwing him out then taking him back. Their engagement has been off three times."

The detective leading the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, would last night say only: "We wish to confirm that a 27-year-old woman was arrested and brought to the police station but we have not and will not confirm the identity of that person."

"It's still not clear when we will be in a position to interview her. We have not started to question her yet."

Miss Andrews made an emotional appeal to find the driver and passenger of a Ford Sierra car which she said chased them for three miles along country lanes after they left a pub.

The former model and barmaid, who appeared with stitches in a cut above a black eye, told how she had been hit in the face by the passenger of the car pursuing them. She described him as an overweight man "with stary eyes" whom she had seen repeatedly stab her fiancé.

Relatives of the couple were yesterday left confused by this latest twist in the murder hunt. Mr Harvey's father Ray said: "This is the vilest murder possible. I just want to see justice done and what I want to do is look into the eyes of my son's killer."

Detectives have told him only that they have taken a woman into custody. "There has been a lot of speculation, but we are trying to keep an open mind until something official is said," Mr Harvey added. He had sat beside Miss Andrews as she made her televised appeal.

Since the stabbing on December 1 police have been appealing for witnesses who either saw the car chase or the argument, which allegedly ended with Mr Harvey's death. A senior police source said yesterday: "We've had a good public response but there were no sightings of the incident as allegedly described."

Detectives also began to examine the timetable that Miss Andrews had given them in which she claimed that the couple left a pub at 9.30pm to drive three miles to their home but the police were not called until an hour later.

Miss Andrews was herself covered in blood and told police she had cradled her dying fiancé in her arms.



Stabbing victim Lee Harvey with his fiancée Tracie Andrews, who is now under police guard in hospital

## Drug baron shot dead in gang war

By AUDREY MAGER  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG baron nicknamed The Psycho was shot dead early yesterday in Dublin's latest gangland killing. Peter Joseph Judge, 41, was shot twice in the head as he sat in his car outside a pub.

Judge was one of four men controlling the Dublin drug scene and was himself suspected of murdering at least two men. He is the fifteenth person to have been murdered in contract-style killings in the Irish capital since 1994 when the IRA murdered Martin Cahill, the criminal godfather nicknamed The General.

After Cahill's death, the Dublin criminal underworld splintered into various gangs, one of which was responsible for the murder last June of the journalist Veronica Guerin. Judge, who dealt in heroin, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy, is not believed to have been involved in her death.

Judge had been to the Royal Oak pub in Finglas, north Dublin, on Saturday with a girlfriend. The two left at 12.15am and went to their Ford Fiesta in the car park. Mr Judge had barely started the engine when a masked man on a motorcycle fired through the window. He died instantly.

## Match of the Day: Lynam and Albion

By A STAFF REPORTER

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion, the troubled football club, has received an offer of help from Desmond Lynam. The BBC sports presenter and a long-time Brighton fan telephoned BBC Radio 5 Live's Six-O-Six, presented by David Mellor, on Saturday, offering to act as mediator.

The problems at Brighton centre on the sale of the Goldstone Ground, which may leave the club homeless in June. Supporters' fears for the club's future have led to protest marches, boycotts and pitch invasions. The team occupies 92nd place (out of 92) in the Football League, went out of the FA Cup to a non-

league team, and is without a manager.

Lynam offered to mediate between Bill Archer, the club chairman, and a consortium that hopes to take over the club. "We would get them in a room and kick their backsides for a couple of hours and see if we could get something sorted out because things are looking so black that the club is going to die," Lynam told listeners.

"I called in absolute frustration, really," Lynam said yesterday. "I keep getting letters and calls from people who know my love for the club and I'm desperate to do something. I'm as mortified as they are - I've been racking my brains for two years."

Lynam was contacted shortly after the broadcast by David Davies of the Football Association, and invited to join discussions sponsored by the Football Association to resolve all parties via the arbitration arm of the Confederation of British Industry.

Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium, speaking on yesterday's Gary Lineker programme on Radio 5, and John Baine of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, welcomed Lynam's intervention but called for the FA to take stronger action.



Lynam: called show in absolute frustration

## Royal divorcees together for Prince's carol service

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince and Princess of Wales were seen together for the first time yesterday since their divorce in August. They joined Prince William in Eton College Chapel for the annual Christmas festival of lessons and carols. The Prince, who is 14 and in his second year at the school, read one of the lessons.

They arrived separately at their elder son's school house and were welcomed inside by Andrew, the housemaster. The Princess drove herself to the school in a black BMW; the Prince arrived five minutes later as a passenger in a Vauxhall Cavalier. The couple then entered the chapel by a side door to avoid waiting photographers.

Prince William read "The Prophet Micah" foretells the glory of Bethlehem. Micah, v. 24. Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, said: "It was an excellent service. Prince William read the lesson very well."

The couple's appearance together came on the day of an unconfirmed report that the Queen, in a move of reconciliation, would invite the Princess to her annual family lunch at Buckingham Palace on December 18, shortly before she departs for Christmas at Sandringham. The Palace would not confirm the invitation.

Last Christmas was the first since the separation that the Princess did not take up the Queen's invitation to spend part of the holiday season at Sandringham. It was a difficult period for the Princess, coming days after the Queen had written urging the couple to proceed with their divorce. The Princess is thought unlikely to attend the Sandringham gathering this year. All eyes instead will be on whether the guest list numbers Sophie Rhys-Jones, who has been the girlfriend of Prince Edward for three years but who still appears to be in want of a proposal of marriage.

Miss Rhys-Jones is rumoured to be tired of waiting. Whether she appears this year will be an important clue to Prince Edward's future marital status.

Diana, Princess of Wales, meanwhile, will be the centre of attention today when she delivers a speech in London to the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Later she will fly to New York for a charity function.



The KLM Fokker on the edge of a foam-drenched runway at Heathrow yesterday after its port undercarriage collapsed on landing

## Crash-landing delays hundreds of flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of flights to and from Heathrow Airport were delayed yesterday after the undercarriage of a twin-engine plane carrying 41 passengers and four crew collapsed on landing, blocking a runway.

More than 150 flights were delayed by at least two hours, others were cancelled and thousands of passengers were held at airports throughout Europe waiting for clearance to fly to Heathrow. Accident investigators carried out an inspection of the undercarriage of the KLM City Hopper Fokker 50 in an attempt to pinpoint what caused it to collapse on landing.

The captain of flight KL 483, from Rotterdam, had told air traffic controllers that he was "not getting three green lights", indicating that the three legs of the undercarriage had locked down safely and that the port leg was not deploying fully.

As firefighters sprayed foam onto the runway, the propeller-driven aircraft made a perfect approach from the west and touched down, apparently without incident. But as the aircraft braked some 200 metres down the

runway the port undercarriage buckled, tipping the aircraft on to its port wing while it was moving at about 60mph.

As soon as the plane had come to a halt the passengers were evacuated, with only one suffering a bruised toe as he stumbled from the escape chute.

The aircraft, built in 1991 and with no previous history of undercarriage trouble, was left on the edge of the runway, which had to be closed to both landing and departing aircraft.

The entire airport closed for a time as controllers sorted the arriving aircraft and held those intending to

take off. Both arriving and departing aircraft then had to use another runway, seriously reducing the airport's overall capacity. British Airways alone had to delay 30 flights by at least two hours and cancelled three services to Manchester.

Sunday afternoon is one of the busiest times of the week for flights from and to continental Europe and dozens of pilots were ordered to wait where they were rather than attempt to come to Heathrow. The blocked runway was expected to be cleared by late last night, and most flights should be back to normal by today.

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# Son unveils memorial to head who never let his pupils down

By JOANNA BALE

THE nine-year-old son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence unveiled a plaque to his father yesterday on the first anniversary of his death.

In a moving ceremony outside the gates of St George's Roman Catholic School, Maida Vale, northwest London, Lucien Lawrence stepped onto a dais and smiled nervously as he pronounced: "Now I shall unveil the memorial to my daddy."

Helped by the Duchess of Kent, he then pulled a cord to reveal the plaque, which said his father "gave his life in defence of a pupil". Cardinal Basil Hume and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, were among those who stood and applauded. Pupils attending the ceremony were visibly upset by the rekindled memories of Mr Lawrence's stabbing, many having seen their wounded headmaster staggering back through the school gates before collapsing and later dying in hospital.

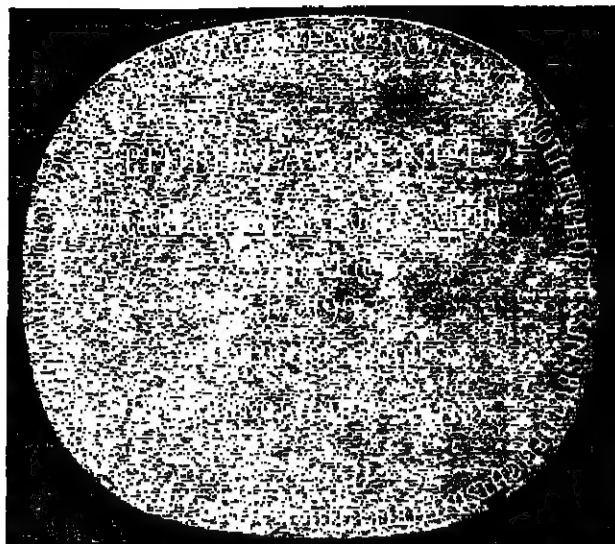
Kamil Zulawski, 11, said: "He was a good man and good for the school. Now we must do our best to live up to his example."

In a service in the school's main hall, Cardinal Hume,

Archbishop of Westminster, told 200 pupils, teachers, friends and politicians that Mr Lawrence was "an example to be followed as well as a memory to be cherished". He added: "Here was a man who got things right. He seemed to incorporate in a person all the values that our society needs and for which Frances, his beloved wife, has so rightly called."

Mrs Lawrence, who has initiated a national debate on morality since her husband's death, said that the memorial encapsulated "the quietude, the strength and the abiding principle of his life". She added that it was "above all for his pupils". "In the early morning or at dusk as they walk through the school gates, perhaps they will pause for a while and consider for a while the words on the plaque."

"They will visualise how he would stand at the gates and send them on their way cheerfully and remember that he cared deeply for each one of them. That he respected and delighted in each of his pupils' individuality and considered each one of them to be capable of greatness. They will remember that when times were



"... love takes no pleasure in other people's sins ..."

tough he gave them hope and that he never let them down."

Referring to an inscription on the plaque from Corinthians, she added: "One year ago today, Philip died. What he was will live on and just as truth is eternal, so the words on the memorial to him form an unbroken circle."

Mr Lawrence was stabbed by a 15-year-old boy as he tried to help one of his pupils who was being attacked by a gang of teenagers outside the school

gates. Earlier this year, an Old Bailey judge ordered Learco Chindamo to be detained indefinitely for the murder.

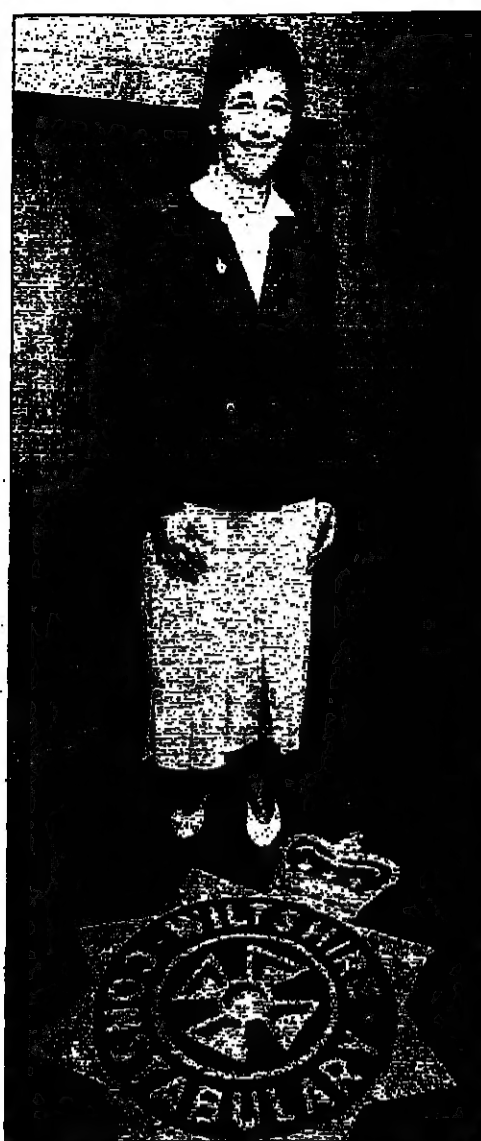
Mr Lawrence's three daughters, Maroushka, who read a psalm, Myfanwy and Unity, and his mother were at the service. Mrs Lawrence thanked the thousands of people who had given money for the memorial. "It is created from your generosity and from your prayers and gentle words. Without these,

the children and I would have been lost," she said.

Mr Howard paid tribute to Mrs Lawrence for attempting to make something "meaningful and positive" from his death. "The bravery Frances has shown has inspired each of us who have seen it. More than that, it has touched the conscience of the nation. It was her choice that love and reason would triumph over hate and irrationality. She has decided that Philip's death can be an agency of change and healing in society. She has offered us her ideas for healing our society and she has given us a vision of regeneration." Mr Howard recently launched an award scheme, as a result of Mrs Lawrence's initiative, to promote good citizenship among young people.

Although security was tight around the school, there was no obvious police guard for Lucien, who was the target of a failed abduction attempt by bogus social workers who called at his home in Ealing, west London, last week.

The Duchess of Kent, who is suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, spoke of her friendship with the family since Mr Lawrence's death and of how he was a "shining example" to the world.



Elizabeth Neville: "Women are in a minority and that creates difficulties"

## Women need middle ground, says newest police chief

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces still do not have enough women in their middle ranks at a time when opportunities for promotion have ceased to widen. Britain's newest woman chief constable says. Elizabeth Neville, appointed to lead the Wiltshire force, said women were sometimes shy about seeking promotion and there were fewer jobs available as superintendents.

Speaking as she began preparations to move from the deputy chief constable's seat in Northamptonshire, she said: "Women are in a minority and that creates its own difficulties. Promotions may settle down and level off instead of continuing to climb. The pool of officers to choose chief officers from is very small."

Lancashire's deputy has a woman chief constable, Pauline Clare. Senior women now meet during the year to discuss developments. Miss Neville, 43, an Oxford graduate, said women make up 14.5 per cent of police strength and a quarter of recruits, but this was a recent change.

She accepts that sexism and harassment exist, although she has never experienced them directly. They can be crushed with good personnel work and complaints systems, she said. The mother of two children, aged 10 and 12, she is divorced from another officer, now an assistant chief constable. She said: "My staff kept bringing me newspaper cuttings about divorce and mother of two. They never write that about men. I have got used to it."

## Woman, 51, gives birth to her daughter's child

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE doctor who helped a 51-year-old grandmother to give birth to her own grandchild said yesterday the case was unlikely to be repeated.

John Webster, director of the Fertility Services Centre at BMI Park hospital, Nottingham, said most women did not discover they were infertile until well into their 30s, by which time their own mother would be too old to act as a surrogate.

Mr Webster was speaking after Caitlin Langston was born last Thursday to her grandmother Edith Jones. It is the first time such a birth has occurred in Britain.

Mrs Jones, who went through the menopause five years ago, agreed to carry the baby for her daughter, Suzanne Langston, 22, who was born without a womb. Eggs were removed from Mrs Langston's ovaries, fertilised with sperm from her husband, and two embryos were implanted in her mother's womb.

The 5lb 3oz girl, who was born by Caesarean section at Darlington Memorial hospital, is therefore genetically its mother's. However, legally, Mrs Jones is Caitlin's mother and her name will appear on the birth certificate. But in six weeks Mrs Langston and her husband, Chris, can apply to the courts for a Parental Order

that will make the baby officially theirs.

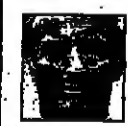
Mrs Jones, who admitted the pregnancy was more tiring than she had expected, said: "It is just wonderful to see Suzanne and Caitlin together. We have all waited a long time for this but it has been worth every minute."

Suzanne added: "The past few days have been out of this world — the most marvellous time of my life. I can still hardly believe I now have my very own baby girl."

The world's first surrogate grandmother, Pat Anthony, gave birth to triplets which she had carried for her daughter, Karen, in South Africa in 1988. Ray Kennedy, the triplets' grandfather, said yesterday they were "super, bouncy children" who were unaffected by the unusual circumstances of their birth.

A man removed a ten-inch tube left in his wife's body after an operation by following instructions given to him over the phone by a nurse. South Tyneside Healthcare NHS Trust has apologised to Gillian Robson of Byker, Tyne and Wear, who has been offered a financial settlement. Her husband Paul, an industrial engineer, was told he might be able to remove the tube after the hospital said it could not perform the procedure until the next day.

## Should mothers have been told?



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A SERIES of legal actions by epileptic mothers against doctors and health authorities is due to start in the next few months. The mothers claim that their children's disabilities would have been avoided had they been warned of the dangers of treating their seizures with sodium valproate while they were pregnant.

A letter to *The Lancet* in 1986 analysed the increased risks of pregnant women having a child with congenital deformities to the spine if they had taken sodium valproate, marketed as Epilim, during the first three months of pregnancy.

Mention of a link between sodium valproate and congenital malformation had been made in other letters to medical journals since 1982. But it was the review in *The Lancet* which showed that the chance of having a baby with abnormalities to the spine such as spina bifida was increased fourfold. It is now recognised that children born to mothers taking sodium valproate also have an increased risk of having wide-set eyes, a broad nose and varying degrees of physical and mental incapacity.

Since the 1986 report in *The Lancet* it has been generally

accepted that women should be told of the risk of taking sodium valproate and if they were to continue this treatment during a pregnancy it would need careful discussion and their informed consent.

There is a case for continuing treatment with Epilim in some instances when, if it were not to be prescribed, there would be a grave risk of the patient having seizures, which could damage the fetus.

Sodium valproate has other side-effects. The drug is hepatotoxic and patients who are taking it, whether pregnant or not, need to have their liver function tests monitored regularly. Periodic blood counts are also necessary so as to check platelet levels — the small particles in the blood involved in clotting. When testing for diabetes, sodium valproate makes the urine tests unreliable and blood tests have to be substituted. In other patients the drug has caused pancreatitis.

One unusual effect of sodium valproate is that in about 2 per cent of patients it makes their hair curl.

DR THOMAS  
STUTTFORD

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gifts will be



Living danger  
as Mother

HEALTH  
The world's first surrogate grandmother, Pat Anthony, gave birth to triplets which she had carried for her daughter, Karen, in South Africa in 1988. Ray Kennedy, the triplets' grandfather, said yesterday they were "super, bouncy children" who were unaffected by the unusual circumstances of their birth.

STUFF THE SOC





Delia Smith has been called "the Volvo of cuisine — safe, reliable and totally organised"

## TV and food brands are recipe for a chef's fortune

By Robin Young

BRITAIN'S leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multimillionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king, and cooking it.

The media exposure enjoyed by chefs is reaching extraordinary proportions. With some 30 regular cookery programmes on terrestrial television and almost double that number on cable and satellite, chefs are too busy racing from studio to studio to have much time for their restaurant stoves.

Antony Worrall-Thompson, whose London restaurants include 190 Queensgate, dell'Ugo and Zee, said yesterday: "I was on 178 different programmes last year, yet I am not really up there at the top like the current favourites, *Two Fat Ladies*. Now they are really mega."

The most popular television chefs earn tens of thousands of pounds for each episode of their series and can add up to £100,000 from subsequent book sales. Advertising contracts are likely to be even more lucrative, with some estimates running as high as £200,000 for a national cam-



Fat ladies: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson

paign over a long period. Occasional television appearances net only hundreds of pounds.

The most commercially successful of the current crop of British chefs is Gary Rhodes, who recently quit the Greenhouse and People's Palace restaurants in London for a highly paid job with the industrial caterers Gardner Merchant and a lucrative contract advertising Tate & Lyle on television. His *Rhodes round Britain* television

series have also been a success in book form, and according to recent research his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook.

Similarly popular among the culinarily incompetent is Keith Floyd, whose recent cookery television series have been one part travelogue, one part monologue and two parts another glass of wine. He has been rewarded with bountiful book sales, and though his Devon pub

business ran into money problems, he is further bankrolled by his Floyd on Bread endorsement which appears on bakery products sold in Safeway stores.

That is the way the future is likely to go, according to the advertising agency Leo Burnett. It has researched public attitudes to food and chefs and has decided that television chefs are "national brands in the making".

Mike Ainsworth, Burnett's business development director, said: "Nearly a fifth of the population cannot cook and are proud of it. They do not want to cook, but they still know and trust Gary Rhodes, Keith Floyd and Delia Smith." Smith, he says, "is the Volvo of British cuisine — safe, reliable, and totally organised". With her magazine tie-up with Sainsbury's she is, he believes, one of Britain's most fully developed chef-brands.

Others well-heeled in the business include the Roux Brothers (Michel is consultant to British Airways and Albert to enterprises as far away as Moscow), Raymond Blanc (consultant to Virgin Atlantic) and Anton Mosimann, who has an outside catering business and a range of fine foods and cookery products.



Gary Rhodes: his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook

## Families to hear how Dunblane gifts will be used

By Shirley English

FAMILIES of victims of the Dunblane massacre will be told this week how some of the £7 million given by well-wishers is to be spent.

Three separate funds set up after the March 13 murders at Dunblane Primary School have collected £7.3 million between them. The largest, the Dunblane Fund, now stands at £4.5 million.

The Dunblane Fund trustees are expected to make an announcement, possibly tomorrow, about their spending plans. They may also set a closing date for donations, which are still coming in.

Profits from the Dunblane single, a rerecording of the Bob Dylan song, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, which goes on sale today, will not be given to any of the tragedy funds. All proceeds from the sale of the song, featuring 14 Dunblane children, will go to Save the Children, ChildLine and the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland.

Trustees of the Dunblane Fund have commissioned two roses in memory of Gwen Mayor, the teacher who died,

and the children. Work has also just started on a £100,000 landscaped memorial garden at Dunblane Cemetery, where some of Thomas Hamilton's victims are buried. It is being jointly funded by the Dunblane Fund and the Stirling Observer Dunblane Help Fund, a charitable trust set up by the local paper, which currently stands at £1.7 million.

The Dunblane Fund's primary purpose is to provide compensation and relief to those affected by the tragedy. Some money has already been distributed in interim payments to families of the bereaved and injured. Details of the payments are being kept confidential. A decision on the final distribution of funds to affected families is said to be imminent.

The third fund, run by Dunblane Primary School Board and the Parent Teachers Association, stands at about £1.1 million. The board has carried out a survey of parents to find out how they want the money to be spent. Early suggestions included providing a range of educational facilities, including language laboratories, computers and science equipment.

Meanwhile, Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, will attempt to raise questions in Parliament today about Thomas Hamilton's links with the Masons. He will claim that the killer was a member in 1977 although he stopped attending lodge meetings in 1986. He will also question the role of Central Scotland Police in allowing Hamilton to build up his arsenal of weapons and ammunition.



Cook will ask about killer's Masonic links

## Living dangerously as Mother Goose

By Carol Midgley

A HEALTH warning has been issued to Mother Goose, Cinderella and Dick Whittington. Doctors say the energetic nature of pantomime performances puts actors at much greater risk of injury such as hernias.

Dudley Rogg, a director at the British Hernia Centre in London, said the number of patients visiting his clinic "dramatically increased" during the panto season.

"It happens every year," Mr Rogg said. "We see an awful lot of actors coming in. It is really quite astonishing. Actors as a group are very macho, they have to leap and bound across the stage and hoist up their leading ladies."

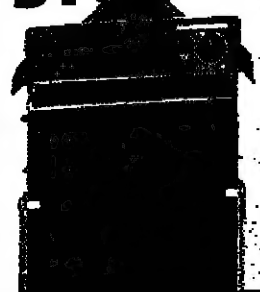
Most are anxious to keep it quiet because they don't want to lose the work.

Paul Elliot, whose production company is involved with 33 pantomimes this year, said: "Pantomime is jolly hard work. Sheer fatigue is one of the main problems but we do get quite a few injuries."

"I think the most tiring part though is Matthew Kelly's as Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome. He has got to go through 18 changes of costume involving huge headpieces then go up and down in a balloon. If anyone is a candidate for a hernia this year it's him."

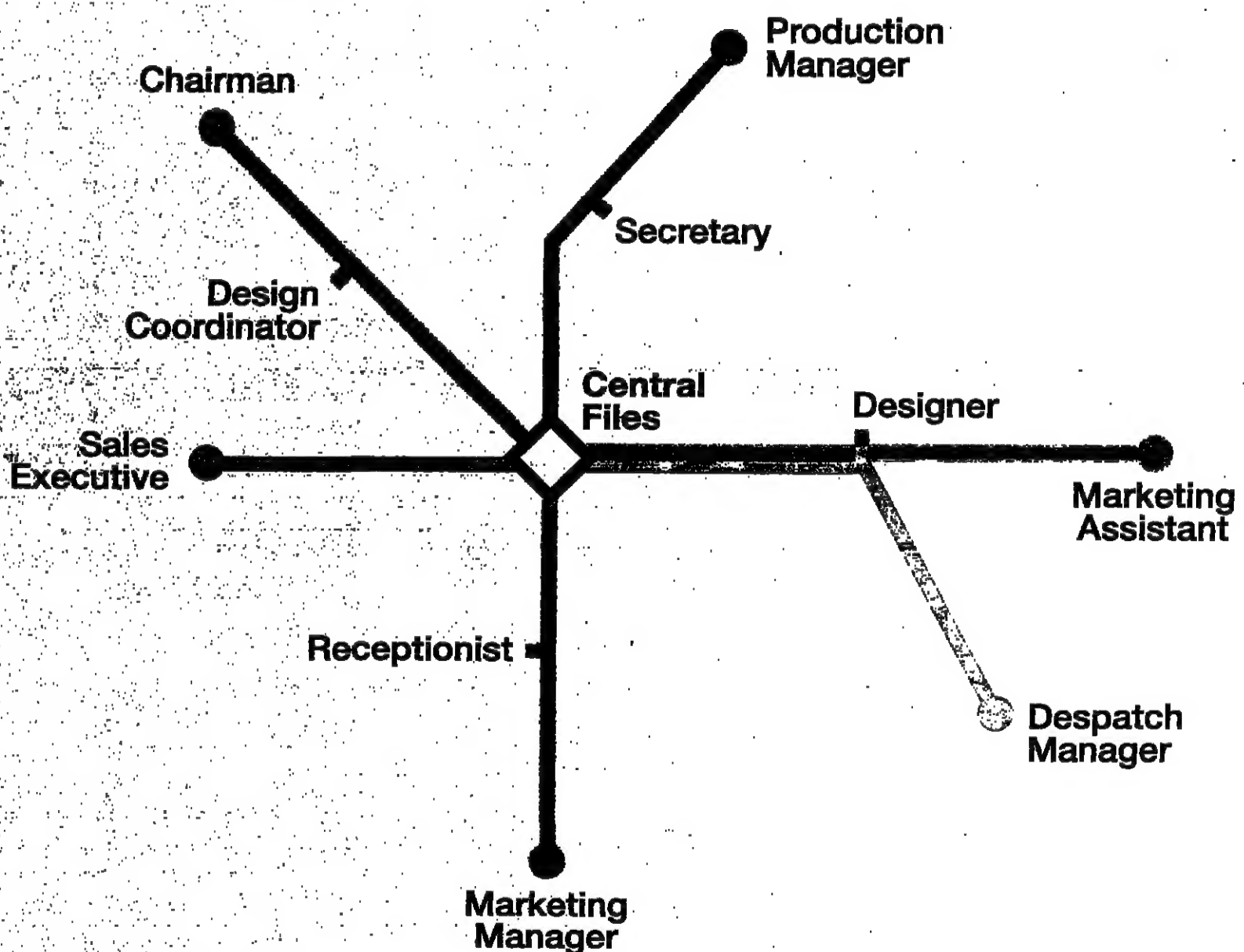
Leading article, page 21

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# Sunday shoppers join £23bn festive spending spree

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

SHOPS were last night counting takings substantially up on last year's, after Britain went on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full, with customers prepared to dig deeper than ever into their cash and credit. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year, even though the number of shoppers was only 3 per cent more.

Although the Christmas rush appeared to have started later this year, it gathered speed yesterday as millions of stores took advantage of the permitted six hours' Sunday opening. John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people passed through the doors after they opened at 11am. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110, he said.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived

soon after 7am for the 11am start. Chris Fear, the manager, said: "The car parks have been full every day for weeks and both Saturday and Sunday were no exception. Most nights we have been kicking people out at the 10pm closing time and we have done about 40 per cent of our business after 5.30pm."

A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink this year, £700 million more than last. The study, for the property consultants Healey and Baker, found that children could expect to receive presents worth about £7 billion, compared with £6.6 billion on adult presents and £6.9 billion on food and drink.

The Welsh and Scots are the most generous to their children, expecting to spend £202 and £200 a head respectively on presents for them, compared to the national average of £155. The Welsh indicate they will spend most in total at £650, £133 more than the average. Londoners expect to spend the least at £459.

The Welsh also topped the list on food, saying they will

spend £127, while Scots were at the bottom, predicting £91 against a national average of £108.

Retailers say there appears to have been a return to high-quality, high-priced gifts. So many personal computers and electronic games are being sold that major industrialists and military equipment manufacturers are said to face a shortage of microchips.

Chris Ward, a technology consultant, said: "During the summer, the price fell as production increased. But now the price has gone up by 50 per cent because of the huge increase in demand from individuals. It is very hard for aircraft manufacturers or missile contractors to obtain sufficient supply of the more powerful 16 or 32 megabyte chips."

The toy most in demand is a model of Buzz Lightyear, one of the heroes of the Disney film *Toy Story*. So many have been sold that many toy shops have run out of supplies. Harrods in central London said: "We have been told we will have no more in stock before Christmas."

## RAF ace defends Bader from TV flak

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE most successful Spitfire pilot of the Second World War hit back yesterday at wartime associates of Sir Douglas Bader who criticise the *Battle of Britain* ace in a new television documentary.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, who shot down 38 German fighters, described Bader as "the greatest Englishman I ever knew".

A "warts and all" documentary on the famous pilot who, after losing both legs in a flying accident, flew in the *Battle of Britain* with tin ones, is to be shown tonight on Channel 4 as part of *Secret Lives*. Johnnie Johnson was a 22-year-old pilot officer during the *Battle of Britain* when Bader was his wing commander.

The television documentary portrays Bader as a bloody-minded egomaniac who tried to land it over his fellow officers. Most of his fellow prisoners in Colditz, where Bader was held after being captured by the Germans, were said to have hated him because of his "wild pranks".

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, 81, is one of the few surviving Spitfire pilots who flew with Bader and he remembers him with awe and affection. "I would compare him with Drake and Nelson. He was a splendid man."

Alex Ross, Bader's medical orderly at Colditz, says he had to carry Bader up and down flights of stone steps in the prison every day and was never thanked. He also says he was prevented by Bader from leaving Colditz in an exchange of medical personnel. Air Vice-Marshal Johnson said yesterday: "Who is this medical orderly? I've never heard of him and what gives him the right to criticise someone like Bader?"

He added: "He was an inspirational leader. He had the qualities of leadership that made it possible to do what we did." He admitted that Bader could sometimes have a rough tongue if pilots made mistakes. "But it was soon forgotten."



Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, top left, with Bader in 1982, three months before he died, and Bader climbing into his Spitfire in 1945 for a victory flypast

## Quiz has solicitors guessing who broke the bed

BY RICHARD FORD

A SCURRILOUS Christmas quiz disclosing sexual liaisons and drug-taking within City of London legal firms has triggered a guessing game among solicitors anxious to identify the prime suspects.

The questionnaire has been compiled from gossip gathered during the past year from solicitors willing to dish the dirt on colleagues and rivals. The 25-question quiz published in *Legal Business* magazine highlights alleged sexual antics, drunkenness and drug-taking but offers no prizes for the correct answers.

Question 1 asks: "Which City firm's chief executive stood up to make a speech at MIPIM (a trade fair) this year and promptly fell over because he was so drunk?"

Another asks which partner took a secretary to his home in Islington, north London, and proceeded to break the bed. The magazine's readers are also asked which partner was allegedly discovered in *flagrant delicto* in the lavatory of a Birmingham restaurant. Too difficult? Then the magazine asked which partner in a City firm withdrew thousands of pounds from his bank, took the money home and rolled around naked in it, or which partner declared to his colleagues that he had made so much money in his last deal he was going to have a vital part of his anatomy cast in gold.

Or there are the questions asking at which law firm's party a journalist was offered cocaine, and which solicitor was arrested for dealing in Ecstasy.

Catrina Griffiths, editor of the magazine, said yesterday that the quiz was a bit of light relief, and that because lawyers had to be so controlled in court or in dealing with clients, they had a tendency to let their hair down when off-duty. "There are always two or three partners in most firms who are, shall we say, more experimental and wild in their behaviour than the rest."

Ms Griffiths said she had received no complaints but had been surprised by the number of people calling her wanting the answers.

## Makers defend kit that puts a punch into pop

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE makers of a do-it-yourself "alcopop" kit rejected demands yesterday for it to be withdrawn from shops, where it can be bought by children.

The alcohol-booster Splooch turns soft drinks into the equivalent of strong lager. On the front of the £4.99 kit is a cartoon logo showing two eyes looking the worse for drink.

Richard Danby, technical director of the makers, Continental Wine Experts in Norwich, said: "It is intended for the alcopop market. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent but we are certainly not targeting under-age drinkers. It takes ten days to

brew and that is a considerable disincentive."

"This product takes a lot of patience and planning, like any home-brew kit. We will take on board all the comments although we are unlikely to withdraw it."

The company also produces beer-making kits which, like Splooch, are not covered by licensing laws. A Splooch kit makes the equivalent of 27 standard 330ml bottles containing 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions saying that adding the booster to wines and beers could produce an alcohol content of up to 15 per cent.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said he would write to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, asking for Splooch to be banned.

A spokesman for the Portman Group, the brewing industry's self-regulatory body, said it had contacted the British Retail Consortium to advise its members to consider whether they should sell the product. "We would urge the manufacturers to rethink the packaging. There is nothing wrong with Splooch in itself but we are against cartoon-type packaging which might be attractive to adolescents."

## Court plea to cut £20m police bill for damages

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD is going to the Court of Appeal today in an attempt to cut back on the damages awarded against the Metropolitan Police in a series of cases. The Yard is also seeking guidelines for juries hearing actions against the police.

Two cases will be heard over two days in the court of the Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf, and lawyers for Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could put forward challenges on another seven cases.

The actions come after mounting concern by Sir Paul and senior officers at the scale of damages. In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £1.5 million in damages, compared with £393,000 in 1986. Awards and costs are estimated to have cost the Metropolitan Police £20 million in the past ten years.

The Yard is challenging the award of £220,000 in March to Kenneth Hsu, 32, a hairdresser, who said he was wrongly arrested and assaulted after refusing to let police into his home in Streatham, southwest London, without a search warrant. It is also challenging the £51,000 for Claudette Thompson, 30, in June last year for assault and battery and false imprisonment.

David Pannick, QC, is appearing for Scotland Yard and the cases are the first of a series which could stretch into next year. The legal argument is likely to centre on the use of exemplary damages to punish and deter.

In a number of the cases where large awards have been made no action was taken against the officers concerned. The Yard would argue the awards were excessive.

Further cases that could go before the court include the record award of £302,000 to Daniel Goswell, 29, after he was hit with a truncheon while handcuffed and £150,000 in June to two Kurdish political refugees, Hacı Bozkurt and Baki Ates.

## Lawyers join forces to help child-sex victims

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS led by Cherie Booth, QC, are spearheading a campaign to help child-sex victims through undercover investigations of paedophile networks and reforms to criminal trials.

They have lent their backing to the Justice for Children project run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and seeking to raise £3 million for its work.

The lawyers steering the campaign — to be launched officially in January next month — include Sir Stephen Brown, the head of the High Court family division, Lord Borrie, formerly Director General of Fair Trading, and Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and a Lovell White Durrant, and Macfarlanes are also represented.

A programme of action is already under way. The NSPCC has a small team of social workers involved in undercover investigations of organised paedophile networks in London, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, but they have a limited budget and urgently need greater funding.

With the backing of the lawyers, the Justice for Children project is also making a training video for judges on how to deal with children in sex-abuse cases. The video, developed with the Judicial Studies Board but with substantial funding from the NSPCC, will be launched in the new year.

The lawyers are also supporting moves to secure reforms to the trial process.



Sir Stephen: helping to steer campaign

These could see children cross-examined in judges' chambers, where no wigs or gowns are worn; reductions in delays in the hearing of child abuse cases, which average 10 months; improved facilities so that video links are the norm; waiting areas where children are not at risk of facing defendants.

Margaret McCabe, a barrister who with Ms Booth is joint organiser of the campaign to involve the legal

profession, said: "Many children feel that the court ordeal is worse than the original abuse. The extent of the problem is massive — we see one paedophilia case in chambers a week. And one paedophile can do harm to perhaps perhaps six to ten children."

She acknowledged there was concern, even hostility, within some quarters of the legal profession. "Some of the criminal Bar, while sympathetic, are also concerned about not putting the interests of justice, the interests of a fair trial, at risk," she said.

The NSPCC said much had been done to help to prepare children for the court, now work was needed to prepare courts for children. Neil Hunt, London regional director, welcomed the involvement of the legal profession. "It is obviously partly about fund-raising but also about promoting our policies as well as backing operational work."

Last week the charity Childline reported the trauma of many who report incidents. There were about 54,000 protection referrals for sexual abuse in 1994 but fewer than 500 convictions.

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## C of E halts fall in congregations to overtake Catholics

By Ruth Gledhill  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SUNDAY attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in recent history. Figures for the congregations for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will now ahead by about 1,000.

Although the Church of England is the established church and still baptises, marries and buries most of the country's Christian population, it has traditionally lagged behind in the number of people in the pews.

Tables in the *Catholic Directory 1997* show a drop of 55,000 in the average Mass attendance between 1994 and 1995, more than the number of churchgoing Catholics in the whole of Wales. While 1.19 million went in 1994, this fell to 1.135 million last year.

Figures for last year are not yet available for the Church of England. The latest attendance figures for England and Wales, for 1994, give an average Sunday turnout of 1.136 million. That is still marginally below the Catholic figures for 1994 but statisticians say the differing rate of decline in each church means that the Anglicans will inch ahead this year or next.

Now members of both churches are anxiously awaiting the Anglican Church figures for last year, due to be published early in the new year.

The new Catholic Church figures show that the number of Catholic baptisms in 1995

Church of England (average Sunday attendance)	1994	1995
Church of England (average Sunday attendance)	1,194,000	1,135,000
Roman Catholic Church in England (average Mass attendance)	1994	1995
Roman Catholic Church in England (average Mass attendance)	1,141,604	1,087,589
Church of England and Wales (average Sunday attendance)	1994	1995
Church of England and Wales (average Sunday attendance)	1,136,000	1,135,000
Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales (average Mass attendance)	1994	1995
Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales (average Mass attendance)	1,194,000	1,135,000

also fell, from 75,236 to 74,848 and the number of marriages from 18,344 to 17,294. The number of Catholic parish churches has increased by 27, from 2,829 to 2,856.

Unlike in the Anglican Church, where the decline that has been a feature since the 1960s has slowed, the rate of decline in the Catholic Church is accelerating. According to recent research by Cofed, the Catholic overseas development agency, the next decade will see a drop by at least half of today's Mass attendance to fewer than 600,000.

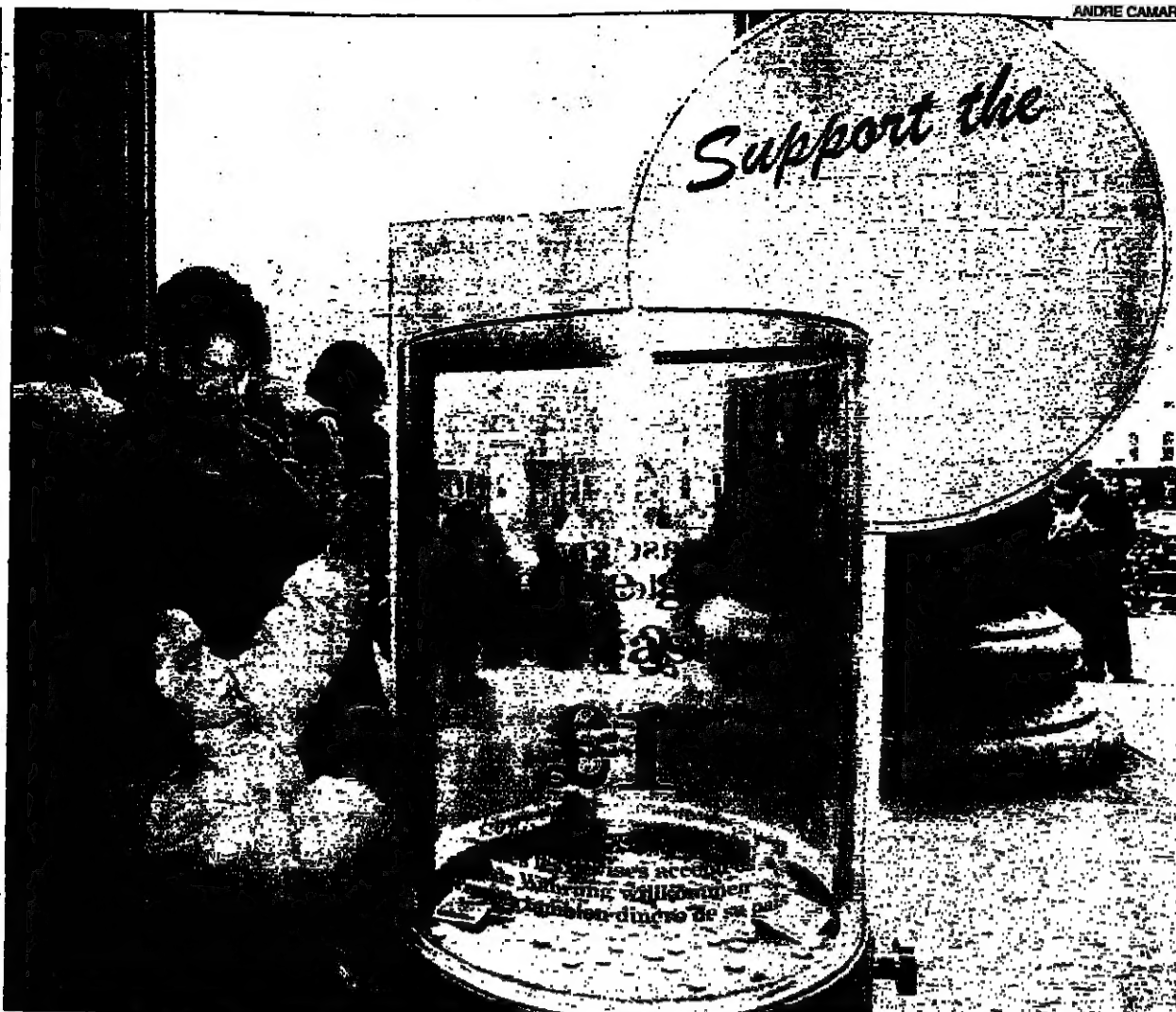
Anglicans, however, believe their decline has bottomed out and figures over the past few years have shown attendance remaining roughly steady.

In the Catholic Church, where weekly mass attendance was once considered compulsory, churchgoing peaked at more than two

million in the late 1960s. Churchgoing in the Church of England was then at 1.6 million. Figures for Wales are not available but are thought to have stood at about 120,000, leaving the Anglicans far behind the Catholics.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, said: "The Church of England is livelier and spiritually more healthy than it has been for some time. It gives me no joy to witness declining numbers in our sister Catholic Church. The denominations head each other to be strong so that together we can witness to the gospel in an unbelieving world."

Monsignor Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, said: "I am pleased for the Anglicans if numbers are picking up. We have had more people in church for some years but that was more to do with the decline in Anglican practice than any growth in the Catholic mass attendance."



A little help but a long way to go: a weekend visitor reaches to make a donation at the British Museum

## Job fears at British Museum

By Damian Whitworth

THE British Museum may make job cuts and slash departmental budgets after ruling out admission charges in the immediate future.

The trustees met at the weekend to discuss a report from Andrew Edwards, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury, which said that the museum's finances were in disarray and predicted a £25 million shortfall over the next three years. He recommended an admission fee of £5 or £6 to raise £8 million a year.

A statement from the trustees said they had rejected admission fees for the time being but "the introduction cannot be ruled out". They added: "All areas of expenditure and income generation are being appraised, including staff levels. It is inevitable that there will have to be some curtailment of activity but the trustees are determined to continue to provide a good level of service."

The new British Library may consider charges. Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, is reported to have told staff of his intention to investigate the implications of charging.

## Food poison death toll rises to nine as shop staff fall sick

By Shirley English

A NINTH pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic, which is now affecting 386 people. The latest victim, an elderly woman who has not been named, died after being released from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary on Friday.

She had been recovering from the *E. coli* 0157 infection and her condition had improved enough for her to go to a nursing home.

It emerged over the weekend that seven staff at the award-winning butcher's shop thought to be the source of the food poisoning outbreak have shown symptoms of being infected with the *E. coli* 0157 bacteria.

North Lanarkshire environmental health officers said the workers became infected after the outbreak and were not carrying the bug while serving in the Wishaw shop of John M. Barr & Son. Mr Barr employs about 40 staff.

Out of the 386 people now affected by apparent food poisoning, 204 have now been confirmed as having *E. coli* 0157. Sixteen adults being treated at Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, and an elderly woman transferred to Stobhill Hospital from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary, are seriously ill.

Lanarkshire Health Board launched a health awareness campaign this weekend to warn the public how they can best minimise the risk of food poisoning. Thousands of leaf-

lets, *E. coli* - Advice To You, have been distributed in Lanarkshire, the area worst affected by the outbreak, at football grounds, shopping precincts, markets, hospitals and in churches.

The 11-point message, which includes practical advice on storage of meat and personal hygiene, will be reinforced by adverts in local newspapers this week.

Health experts believe there is no longer any potential risk from the 82 outlets supplied by the Wishaw butcher, providing no cooked meats or meat products from Barr's shop remain on these premises. Affected stores are said to have been thoroughly cleaned and the environmental health department is "satisfied that the potential risk of the transmission of *E. coli* 0157 from having stocked Mr Barr's products no longer exists".

It has emerged meanwhile that an antidote to the *E. coli* bacteria, developed in Canada, is due to begin trials in Britain next year. Lanarkshire Health Board said, however, that the current outbreak featured a particularly severe strain of *E. coli* and it was not yet known if the antidote would be effective against it.

On Teesside this weekend a 90-year-old woman infected with *E. coli* 0157 died. It was also confirmed that another pensioner on Teesside was being treated for the bacteria. Neither case is linked to the Scottish epidemic.

## Bank sued over home's negative equilibrium

By Paul Wilkinson

A WOMAN is suing Barclays Bank and its surveyors over a hole that threatens to engulf her home. Already part of Jane Britton's garage has slipped into it and she has spent £4,000 tipping tons of rubble into the hole to prevent her three-bedroomed house going the same way.

Problems began within weeks of the family moving into the £55,000 house in Ripon, north Yorkshire, two years ago. The front garden subsided, leaving a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep.

Mrs Britton, 31, had not been told that the seven-year-old house had been built over gypsum deposits, which dissolve on contact with water. She said: "I asked for a structural survey, the bank's surveyor didn't spot it. When I first saw it, I just screamed."

Despite the rubble the hole keeps re-appearing, each time bigger than before. Mrs

Britton, who lives with Eddie Newcombe and their two children, Charlotte, 9, and Charlie, 8, said: "What we have now is a house that is worthless and a problem with the land that threatens to literally swallow us up."

The hardcore costs £2,000 a time. She said: "The insurance company has paid up five times and I have paid the bill twice but it can't keep going on like this for much longer." Her insurers are now refusing to pay because they say it is a natural disaster.

The British Geological Survey has produced a report which claims that the problem was known about as far back as 1968. Mrs Britton is claiming £200,000 from Barclays - which advanced her £20,000 mortgage - their surveyors and the previous owner. A preliminary High Court date has been fixed for later this month.

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# Wind of change puts Ratty on rescue list with rhino

By DANIEL MCGRODY

HE IS the stoical star of Christmas productions of *The Wind in the Willows*. But the real-life Ratty faces near extinction by the end of the century.

The water vole, on which the character in Kenneth Grahame's immortal novel was modelled, is one of 600 species of flora and fauna in danger of disappearing from the British countryside. That is why the charity Tusk Force is dedicated to saving humble native mammals as well as funding high-profile and dangerous operations to track poachers that hunt the Siberian tiger and black rhino.

Extinction is no respecter of size. Neela Bettridge, the charity's director, said: "We cannot lecture other countries about the need to protect the African elephant or the black bear and then ignore the destruction of our native species." Tusk Force is also working with others in the Highlands of Scotland to protect species such as the wildcat and the red squirrel. When Kenneth Grahame walked the riverbanks 90 years ago, there was no shortage of water voles to amuse and educate him as he fashioned Ratty's character. When Mole says what "a jolly life" it

THE TIMES  
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Inspiration for Ratty: water vole, now at risk

must be living by the river. Ratty replies: "By it and with it and on it and in it. It's brother and sister to me, and aunts and company, and food and drink and (naturally) washing. It's my world, and I don't want any other. Lord! The times we've had together."

Since then, the riverbanks have been changed by pollu-

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out the first systematic survey in ditches, ponds, wetlands and rivers from the Dee to the Thames. Their findings show the water vole had gone from the rivers Evenlode, Gade, Lambourn, Loddon, Mole and Wey. Along the Thames, signs of the mammal were found at only two sites.

The water vole is now listed on the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, which means the Government must devise a scheme for the species to survive. Over the coming year, Tusk Force will be improving waterside habitats for water voles by creating experimental sanctuaries.

Although possessed of neither waterproof fur nor webbed feet, water voles like to build their homes in reed-covered banks beside slow-flowing ditches, streams and rivers. Over the centuries, Ratty has survived the predation of owls, stoats, weasels and foxes but the species is no match for mink that have escaped from farms to colonise the riverbank.

Rob Strachan, a biologist with the Oxford Unit, said: "Since the start of this century there has been a gradual decline in water voles. By the year 2000, only 6 per cent of water vole sites known to have existed 100 years ago will be left."



Mole visits Ratty on the riverbank: "It's my world, and I don't want any other."

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## Rising tide of clutter 'killing the countryside'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE countryside is being subjected to "death by a thousand cuts" from the ugly clutter of a modern society that cares little for rural beauty and tranquility, conservationists say.

Relaxation of controls on the advertisement of commercial premises could see thousands of disfiguring new road signs sprouting all over the country next year, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). The threat is highlighted in a CPRE report published today urging local councils and the public to join a campaign against the rising tide of what it calls "countryside clutter".

"It is not just large-scale developments... that cause harm," Jonathan Dimbleby, the CPRE president, said. "The gradual accumulation of small changes can have a dramatic effect over time, suburbanising the countryside and hiding its special character and beauty."

The CPRE is particularly alarmed by the spread of unnecessary and intrusive road signs, inappropriate advertisements, insensitively sited telecommunications masts and garishly designed roadside restaurants. Earlier this year, in the name of deregulation, the Department of Trans-

port greatly relaxed the rules governing the erection of the white-on-brown tourist signs.

Neil Sinden, CPRE's planning and heritage campaigner, said: "Under the new rules any business open to the public without prior booking during normal opening hours is eligible to apply for the signs. This means that cinemas, pubs, shops, restaurants, hotels and bed-and-breakfast operators all now qualify."

The Countryside Commission, the Government's landscape adviser, has estimated that the relaxation of controls, which it strongly opposed, could lead to half a million new white-on-brown signs being erected.

More alarmingly, the Department of Transport is proposing to allow commercial sponsorship of road signposts. The department has also issued proposals for a completely new class of signs for commercial premises not covered by the new rules on tourist white-on-brown signs. A separate proposal by the Environment Department to abolish regulations banning outdoor hoardings in "areas of special control of advertisements", which cover half the countryside, has been dropped but only "for the time being".

## Storm brewing over Met Office accuracy

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Met Office claim that its BBC Radio 4 forecasts are 84 per cent accurate was challenged yesterday by a weather expert. Dr John Thornes, director of the Climate and Atmospheric Research Centre at Birmingham University, said some rainfall forecasts were less than 50 per cent right.

He will call at a meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society in London on Wednesday for verification of Met Office forecasts by an independent body — an "Omet". The Met Office said that would be "inappropriate" because its performance was already

monitored by the National Audit Office.

Dr Thornes believes commercialisation of forecasting has put more emphasis on presentation and less on precision. Even if the 84 per cent figure is right, he questions its value for money.

"If you predict the weather by saying it will be the same tomorrow as it is today, you will be about 60 per cent right," he said. "This means that a lot of public money is going into something which only improves accuracy by about 20 per cent."

Forecast, page 24

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# Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN PORT STANLEY

TODAY is Battle Day in the Falkland Islands, the anniversary of the fierce naval engagement in 1914 when the Royal Navy destroyed a large German fleet under the command of Admiral von Spee moored off the Falklands.

But as the islanders celebrate with parades, games and a public holiday, many are wondering whether they will soon have to fight a new battle with a Labour government determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina. Their worries have been provoked by a statement from Tony Lloyd, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, during a recent visit here where he urged the islanders to forge closer relations with Buenos Aires and prepare for a normalisation of contacts. He also condemned as "an absurd anomaly" the current ban on Argentine passport holders entering the islands.

Mr Lloyd's remarks touched raw nerves. Older

Falklanders, with bitter memories of the 1982 invasion, are determined to have nothing to do with Argentina. They see no reason why anyone holding an Argentine passport should be allowed to land as long as the Menem Government makes a constitutional claim on the islands' sovereignty.

"If someone is coming to steal everything in your house, you don't let him in by the front door" is a common sentiment.

Many are nervous, however, that a future Labour government would push harder than the Conservatives for normalisation. They also recognise that, although Labour wishes for self-determination are paramount, they do not want this distant dependent territory to be seen as a "Tory trophy". Margaret Thatcher's triumphant identification with the Falkland cause makes most people here wary of Labour.

Yesterday, however, the church ceremonies were as robust as ever, touching as always on the other key date here, June 14 or Liberation Day. Volunteers from the Falkland Islands Defence Force drew up a guard of honour around the 1914 War memorial as Richard Rait, the Governor, in plumes and full ceremonial dress, reassured Britain's commitment and laid a memorial wreath. The little force, of around 90 men and four women has no doubt that it would play a vital role in defending Port Stanley, were there ever to be another invasion.

Most islanders, however, see no imminent threat and are comforted by the daily sight of RAF Tornado jets streaking across the bleak moorland on training flights from the base at Mount Pleasant. Commanders of the three British services based here see no immediate danger from Argentina, but say that without 24-hour radar surveillance and constant preparedness, headline nationalists in Argentina might be tempted once again to mount a military expedition.

Falkland Islanders are more worried by a peaceful civilian expedition of tourists. Already a large number of Argentinians come here travelling on other passports. The headline councillors say that allowing free entry to anyone would create a dangerous precedent and give up the Falklands' only leverage.

There is even a lingering resentment that a second visit here by the close relatives of more than 250 Argentinians buried on a windswept hill near Goose Green is to go ahead next month. The families will be kept hidden away in a hotel disused for two years and will not be allowed to stay more than one night.

"It's far too early to let them all come back," one islander said. He said many people wanted to see whether the new agreement with Buenos Aires on fishing and oil exploration would work properly before further normalisation could be contemplated.



Falkland Islanders fear a second Argentine invasion



Small investors protest outside the stock exchange in Dhaka yesterday over the sudden fall in share prices. They are demanding intervention by the state

## Protest closes Dhaka bourse

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN DHAKA

A DEMONSTRATION by roadside traders yesterday outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange forced the suspension of trading for the second consecutive day, officials said.

"Trading in the bourse has been suspended because brokers could not turn up due to the continued sit-in demonstration by the traders," an official in Dhaka said.

The protesters also obstructed stock exchange staff and officials trying to enter the

bourse building in Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district. The unauthorised roadside market traders began their sit-in on Saturday to press their demands to revive the share market to its previous bullish trading. The traders, aggrieved by a big slide in share prices, blamed brokers for manipulating the market and demanded action.

They also demanded transparency in stock exchange trading and the inclusion of

government representatives and roadside market traders on the bourse council.

The composite price index of the bourse closed at 2,618.35 points, down 1.83 per cent or 48.80 points, at the start of the week on Saturday, when trading had to be suspended.

Police drive: Health officials vaccinated millions of Bangladeshi children yesterday in the campaign to stamp out polio by inoculating a total of 20 million children. (Reuters)

## Forgery charge in cave art dispute

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH official has been charged with forgery amid accusations of a state-orchestrated plot to defraud potholers who uncovered the world's most spectacular set of prehistoric cave paintings.

Patrice Béghain, 52, was last week accused of falsifying documents in an attempt to demonstrate that the French Government should reap financial benefits from the 30,000-year-old Chauvet cave in the Ardèche region. He denies the charge.

The cave contains the most extensive collection of prehistoric art yet found, including 600 vivid paintings of mammoths, reindeer, bison, panthers and two rhinoceroses locked in head-to-head combat. With its potential as a multi-million franc tourist attraction, "la grotte Chauvet", 40 miles northwest of Avignon, is at the centre of a legal imbroglio involving the Culture Ministry, the potholers who revealed its existence, and local landowners.

Observers say it will remain closed for some time as a multitude of cases come before the courts. The principal action was brought against the French state by Jean-Marie Chauvet, the man who stumbled upon the cavern while potholing with friends on Christmas Eve in 1994.

A national archaeological service employee, M Chauvet says there are "no words to describe the unimaginable scale of walls completely covered with paintings". He says he should enjoy a share of the benefits from the sale of photographs and, possibly, future tourist revenue.

The Culture Ministry disagrees, saying he should get nothing because he works for the state, which was thus responsible for the discovery and its financial spin-offs. M Béghain, head of the regional directorate of cultural affairs, produced a document to show that M Chauvet had been on a government mission at the time of his find.

But last week, the Lyons-based investigating judge, Gilbert Emery, charged the official with falsifying the document, lending weight to M Chauvet's claims of a plot.

## African delegation wins truce

Bangui: Rebel soldiers and forces loyal to the Central African Republic's President, Ange-Félix Patasse, have agreed to a two-week truce and to allow time for the introduction of a ten-point peace plan, a delegation of African leaders said here.

Under the truce, which takes immediate effect, the sides retain their weapons and will remain in the positions they now hold, pending the application of the peace plan.

Sources close to the republic's ruling MLPC party say about 100 people have died since the unrest began on November 15. The mutineers wanted the resignation of President Patasse, whom they accuse of high treason. (AFP)

## 5,000 arrested

Delhi: More than 5,000 people were detained after protests as Jayaram Jayalalitha, 48, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, was arrested in Madras on a corruption charge. (Reuters)

## Memorial call

Berlin: Gays here have called for a memorial to mark the Nazis' attempt to wipe out homosexuals. Estimates put the number of "pink triangle" victim at between 10,000 and 15,000. (Reuters)

## Ministers quit

Kathmandu: The Government of Sher Bahadur Deuba, Nepal's Prime Minister, appeared in jeopardy after seven ministers resigned and opposition Communists demanded a no-confidence vote. (Reuters)

## Athlete deported

Jerusalem: Vladimir Ivanovski, a weightlifter on the Israeli Olympic team who is from Siberia, is being deported for fraudulently obtaining citizenship by paying an Israeli woman to marry him. (AP)

## Hanging on

Tokyo: Japan plans to put 20 stationary airships 12½ miles up in the stratosphere as radio relay stations for mobile telephones to counter its problems as a mountainous country, a newspaper reported. (AFP)

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# Clinton claims fall of two million in people on welfare

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton has hailed and claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago. In a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms, he said on Saturday in his weekly radio address. The figures also showed that nearly three quarters of a million people have stopped receiving welfare — income-related benefits paid by federal or state government — in the past seven months. The figures come as the White House prepares to bat-

tle with the Republican-backed Congress over the welfare reform Bill which Mr Clinton signed in September, having vetoed it twice. Critics of the new laws, which remove benefits from people who do not seek work, say they are too harsh on the poorest members of society. However, Republicans and Democrats, both committed to trying to balance the government budget, are seeking ways to cut spending on federal entitlements. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave a warning on Friday that prompt action was needed to rescue

the social security system from bankruptcy. Mr Greenspan, who headed a 1985 commission which temporarily rescued social security from imminent collapse, said that the approaching retirement of the "baby boomers" would worsen the problem. Whatever was done should be done soon to minimise the cost, he argued in a speech in Philadelphia. It also emerged yesterday that a federal advisory panel studying the looming problems in funding social security is sharply split in its conclusions after two years of study. Seven of the 13 members recommend replacing part of social security with compulsory private savings. Other members argue that investing social security funds in the stock market, rather than government bonds, would earn enough extra money, albeit at higher risk, to make up the predicted shortfall.

## 'Corporate wife' in \$49m divorce case

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE "corporate wife" of a General Electric executive is seeking half of his estimated \$98 million (£60 million) fortune in a divorce case, arguing that she put as much work into his career as he did. Lorna Wendt, 53, says that during the couple's 31-year marriage she performed such company services as hosting dinner parties and organising trips abroad, offering advice on job applicants and socialising with VIPs, giving tips on shopping to the wives of employees, and even babysitting their children. Describing herself as "the ultimate hostess", Mrs Wendt told a court in Connecticut: "I took my job very seriously."

"I know what Lorna's needs are, and I want her to be able to live very, very comfortably after we're divorced, and I think that's the kind of number that should allow her to do that," he said in a deposition obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*. Experts say Mrs Wendt has an unusually strong case which could mark a breakthrough for the wives of the super-rich, who are usually awarded far less than half the estate under an unofficial doctrine that "enough is enough". When Mr Wendt graduated from Harvard Business School, the dean gave Mrs Wendt and other business school wives a PH.D. degree, for "Put Hubby Through" — a certificate she has now introduced as evidence in the divorce case. Mrs Wendt says the question is not how much money she needs from her husband, but how much she deserves as a partner in his career.

## Castro promise of Communist future

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

Fidel Castro and his brother, Raúl, centre, standing side-by-side to greet the public during an act of commemoration marking the hundredth anniversary of the death, during Cuba's war of independence from Spain, of General Antonio Maceo (David Adams writes in Miami). On the platform with the brothers is Comandante Juan Almeida, left, a member of the ruling Council of State. Raúl Castro, Cuba's Vice-President and Defence Minister, took the opportunity to pledge to carry communism into the 21st century. He told those at the ceremony: "In the 21st century the destiny of the country will be in the hands of men and women who are as firm as us, as patriotic, as anti-imperialist, as Communist and as united as us."



Fidel Castro and his brother, Raúl, centre, standing side-by-side to greet the public during an act of commemoration marking the hundredth anniversary of the death, during Cuba's war of independence from Spain, of General Antonio Maceo (David Adams writes in Miami). On the platform with the brothers is Comandante Juan Almeida, left, a member of the ruling Council of State. Raúl Castro, Cuba's Vice-President and Defence Minister, took the opportunity to pledge to carry communism into the 21st century.

Although the speeches focused on the Castro's traditional enemy — Washing-

ton — the anniversary of the general's death in Ciego de Avila, near Havana, was also a reminder of Cuba's resistance to European meddling in its affairs. Last week the European Union approved a policy on Cuba, demanding greater respect for human rights and democratic reforms as a condition for European economic co-operation. Last month Cuba withdrew its approval for Spain's new Ambassador, José Coderch, in protest against what it called Spanish interference in its affairs.

## Internet user on sex charge

BY JAMES BONE

AN IVY LEAGUE scientist from a well-connected New York family has been charged with torturing and sexually assaulting a student he had met on the Internet. Police say Oliver Jovanovic, 30, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, tied up and gagged his victim before burning her with hot candle wax during a 20-hour ordeal. Mr Jovanovic also allegedly bit the woman's breasts while showing her pictures of mutilated bodies. At his flat in Upper Manhattan, police found reading material about the cannibal-killer Jeffrey Dahmer and books with pictures of corpses and hermaproditism. His computer was also seized as evidence, despite Mr Jovanovic's protest that he was soon due to defend his PhD. He met his alleged victim, a 20-year-old philosophy student, in a computer "chat room" last month. The two arranged to meet for a dinner-date. Afterwards she agreed to watch videos in his flat where the alleged attack then took place. His lawyer says Mr Jovanovic is not guilty of aggravated sexual assault, a charge carrying a maximum jail sentence of 25 years.

## Japanese Princess laments media 'distortion'

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Crown Princess Masako has hit back at the foreign and domestic media for what she called a distorted portrayal of her life behind the walls of the palace, but admitted she had found it hard to conform. "I struggle at times in harmonising or striking a balance between the traditional way of a Crown Princess and the way I feel," she said. The Princess, who served at the Foreign Ministry after being educated at three top universities — Harvard, Tokyo and Oxford — gave only one example of the type of media coverage she disliked. "There was a story which said that I am seen only when I ride a train or a car and that I rarely appear in public," Princess Masako said, in an apparent reference to a US newspaper report. "Is it really so? Isn't it a little too exaggerated?"

The Princess also turned on Japanese weekly magazines, which feature celebrity gossip, and particularly royal affairs. "I often see them pursue arguments ... centring on unfounded speculation about the Imperial Family, the Imperial Household Agency and myself and carry sensational headlines," she said. With unusual candour Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito, denied ten days ago reports that his frequent trips to Thailand were related to extra-marital affairs there.

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Masako: has fallen in with palace protocol

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# Starving Kabul sells bones of the dead to survive

**I**n an alley beside Kabul's blue mosque, ragged, lean figures shovelled bones into sacks before loading them onto the back of a decrepit, gaudily painted lorry.

There were animal bones and human bones. People here are so desperate they are selling their dead on the street of Kabul.

Tajiks, Uzbeks, Pashtuns, Hazaras, the descendants of Alexander's army and Utiila's Mongol hordes, jostle one another in the bazaars and street stalls selling everything from the most ornate Persian carpets down to the most useless junk and mere crusts of bread.

It was several days before I noticed the files of bones in the market stalls. These seemed to be more each day, and late one afternoon I stopped to ask a staholder what they were for. "Oh, the are brought by merchants here and sold on in bulk to Pakistan," he replied. There they are used to make soup, cooking oil and chicken feed.

Asked how much the bones were worth. Then, in a moment of intuition, I asked how much for human bones. "The same price," he said, nonplussed, "they are often easier to get."

there was no humour in his eyes and he turned away, bored with the conversation. But his words left an echo that stripped away the superficial exorcism of the bazaars and revealed the poverty of the world beneath.

The average skeleton of a dead adult male Afghan weighs about 13lb, which makes it worth up to 7,000 afghanis in the bazaars, or just over half a US dollar. It is good money in Kabul.

Inflation has been running at more than 400 per cent since January, with no increase in wages, and the capital's almost non-existent economy was damaged further by Taleban's decree banning women from working.

Pres., which initially dropped after Taleban's takeover of the city, have risen to their original levels as the result of Pakistani and Taleban taxes on pods entering the country. A 14lb bag of flour costs about 32,000 afghanis and most Kabul families have at least six mouths to feed. The residents of Kahl face their worst winter ever, here the trade in human bones.

"Used to dig for scrap iron, but the Taliban forbade it being exported to Pakistan when they captured Kabul," says Faizdeen, in the Ashaqa Arefan graveyard in the west of the city. "So now dig for bones."

It is 14 years old, dressed in torn, dirty clothes, and malnutrition has cracked the skin on the sides of his face and prematurely withered his hands. He has a tatty cotton bag in his hands, with which he opens proudly for examination. A tibia sticks out of the opening. Beneath it lies a jumble of smaller bones, all human, all taken from the graveyard. He is typical of the city's

**Anthony Loyd** in Kabul reports from a ruined and impoverished city where children have become family breadwinners by robbing graves, not for jewellery but for bones that are exported to Pakistan

street urchins. More than 28,000 were employed in some form of labour at the last count and the number is rising. By robbing graves, Faizdeen earns twice as much as a civil servant.

One of a family of eight, his parents are without work. Two months ago a group of his friends took him grave-robbing. They sold the bones to one of the boneyards that have sprung up behind the blue mosque. Faizdeen returned home and asked his father, in the tradition of deference in Afghan families, for permission to start selling bones full time. His father thought for a while, then acquiesced.

"It's good business," Faizdeen says. "There is no other work, the scrap iron trade has finished and we need the money for food. Though I often pick animal bones, human ones are easier to find here. The money is the same and with it I can support my family."

Six days a week he goes out to the graveyards with his cotton sack and sick and starts scratching the bones from the earth. It is not difficult, though he prefers to pick a time when the graveyards are deserted as, though the business of digging is

now monopolised by children, sometimes elderly men chase the diggers away. On a good day he collects up to 28lb of bones.

The Ashaqa Arefan cemetery, spilling down from rocky, bare earth slopes and named after one of two Afghan brothers who were "martyred" fighting the British in 1919, was a front line between forces loyal to the Government and those of General Dostum for almost a year. Shellfire broke open many of the caskets, exhumed bodies from the simpler graves, and scattered bones across the hillside.

Soil erosion and the work of the grave robbers has uncovered many graves. For these people it is a good place to dig, though it is considered unclean by the city's favoured cemetery dwellers. Inside the city's largest, the Shohada Soleham ("place of the martyrs") beneath the Bala Hisar fortress in the south of Kabul, and the ancient Dushartihari ("Desert of Barchi") site in the west of the capital.

Attitudes to the trade vary. Though they are a proud people and the business is obviously *haram*, forbidden by their faith, the 17-year war, of which there is still no end in sight, has undermined many of the society's

moral constraints. "I don't stop my children from working the graves," remarked Qadagha, the father of two bone-trading sons. "It is not good but what can we do? It's work and money and our only thoughts are for food."

For the sake of subtlety the grave robbers smash the skulls they find with rocks, sometimes burning the jawbones to disguise their telling shape.

**T**hough Taliban's strict imposition of *Sharia* (religious) law has enforced a degree of discipline, ironically it is their presence that has allowed the human bone trade to begin.

"The last Government banned the bone trade," says Nowshier, the owner of a large boneyard in Morad Kham by the blue mosque. "The biggest trade in their times was iron. Then the Taleban came and since [Benazir] Bhutto fell in Pakistan they banned the export of iron there, and few traders here risk buying it off the children any more. So the bone trade has taken off.

"Dogs, cows, people, the lot. When the Taliban asked about it, we said we dealt in animal bones to be used for chicken feed. If they knew different they would close it down. But they fell for it, and left us alone."

"The money is excellent. You can buy a kilo here for up to two 'kaldars' (one kaldar is about 510 afghan rupees, a term like 'a guinea'), and sell it in Pakistan for 15 kaldars."

Piles of broken bones from dogs, cows, horses, donkeys and humans lie around him, grey in the sunlight like shingle on the beach, one particular pile topped coquettishly by a human pelvis. Nowsher opened his yard a month ago, buying bones from the collectors (usually teenage "fences" that buy off the grave robbers) and exporting them to Lahore on the back of lorries.

Nothing can mask Afghanistan's grim reality, neither the beauty of the carpets, the magnificence of the mountains, nor the sweep of the Afghan skies. The war whirled around this city for years, then swept into it, then left it behind, a ruin. Pakistan, the current exporter of so much misery to Afghanistan, via its supply of military hardware to Taleban, has ironically become the importer of dead Afghans for use as chicken feed and cooking oil.

"You see what we have come to," whispered an Afghan teacher beside me as I watched some children selling bones to a trader, who weighed them on a set of large scales. "No work, no food, no hope. A generation with no education that has known only war. This is what it has come to: human remains sold as animal bones. Look at our miserable lives; even the rich of this place stop in the street and beg for money."



The human and animal bones these children collect are sold to Pakistan where they are processed into soap, cooking oil and chicken feed



**Children at one of Kabul's military cemeteries scavenge for bones among the victims of Afghanistan's 17-year war**

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Mr Annan, 58, has worked for more than three decades in the UN system, held senior

### Annan: has a proven record as manager

ments "probably need their armies to intimidate their own populations".

According to the paper, the owner, Josef Matula, is blocking attempts by the town

family in 1938 after the Nazi takeover of Austria and later died of cancer.

North and South Korea are waging on Chinese soil. The agent, who allegedly

tion and North Korea," a National Unification Board official said. (AFP)

If the sitting President fails to win at least 50 per cent of the vote there will be a runoff election in three weeks' time. The opposition parties, and particularly the NPP, is likely to gain a considerable number of parliamentary seats and will form an important presence in Ghanaian public life. Turnout throughout the country was about 73 per cent.

[illegible]

We believe that this or any future British government should negotiate in the current IGC with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the House of Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as during ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. *A new treaty package negotiated along the lines set out in this declaration could, and would command a large majority in the House of Commons, and should be a priority for this and any future British government.*

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## Your number's up

Scientists are good at putting a number on anything, but so far they have failed to find a simple measure for the risks of normal life. Is living in Cornwall, where radon levels are high, more dangerous than eating British beef? How do both of these compare with the risks of smoking cigarettes or driving a car? We need a number to express these risks.

The challenge is thrown down in this month's issue of the Royal Statistical Society's magazine, *RSS News*, following a call made by the society's president, Adrian Smith, in his presidential address. The journal says that it simply isn't good enough merely to be told that something is "safe" or otherwise. "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making," the journal's editorial says.

Coming up with a Richter scale for risk isn't easy. It must provide a comparison between the risks of purely voluntary activities (smoking, rock climbing) and those that are voluntary but unavoidable (travel, eating different foods, coalmining) while also incorporating risks imposed by society (living near a nuclear power station, or passive smoking) and acts of God such as floods or lightning strikes.

*RSS News* cites approvingly the work of the mathematician John Allen Paulos of Temple University in Pennsylvania. In his book *Innumeracy* Professor Paulos suggests a simple safety index based on logarithms. If



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

one in every 8,000 people in the UK dies every year in traffic accidents, then the safety index would be the log of 8,000 — that is 3.9.

On this basis, smoking ten cigarettes a day would score 2.3, being struck by lightning 6.3, playing Russian roulette once a year 0.8, and dying from a bee-sting 6.8. *RSS News* suggests that anything under three might be deemed dangerous, and anything over six safe.

This is a good starting point, but not the complete answer. It would need to be adjusted for the number of people involved, and for their age — a long-term risk that is unacceptable for a 25-year-old might well be seen differently by those over the age of 70 — and it should make allowance for disease and disability as well as death.

One drawback is that dangerous activities score low, and safe ones high, the opposite of the Richter scale. It is a safety rather than a risk index. Professor Paulos's answer to that was simply to subtract his safety index from 10 to produce a rising scale of risk, the more dangerous activities scoring higher. But the *RSS News* doesn't find that very appealing, pointing out that very low risk activities might come out as negative numbers.

Anybody with a better idea should send it to the editor of *RSS News*, Frank Duckworth, at 12 Errol St, London EC1Y 8LX (e-mail: [rssnews@rss.org.uk](mailto:rssnews@rss.org.uk)). Immortality could await the successful inventor: think of Beaufort and Richter.

### Putting the finger on the koala



POLICE in Australia have been warned: the fingerprints at the scene of a crime could be those of a koala bear. While handling koalas in the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Adelaide, Dr Maciej Henneberg of the University of Adelaide noticed that their fingers carry the same kinds of loops, whorls and arches as human fingers. Detailed comparisons with chimpanzee and human prints showed that although chimpanzees are man's closest relation, their fingerprints are less like ours than a koala's are. Nobody else seems to have noticed this, Dr Henneberg found when he consulted the literature.

The main interest is evolutionary rather than forensic. "Marsupials such as the koala split from the lineage of the primates about 80 million years ago," Dr Henneberg told *New Scientist*. "So we have two lineages independently developing the same trait."

He believes that fingerprints originally evolved as a device to aid grip when climbing trees. "Although it's extremely unlikely that koala prints would be found at the scene of a crime, police should at least be aware of the possibility," he says.

### When passion turns cold



PEOPLE with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds, a study in Pittsburgh has shown. Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University exposed 276 adults to a cold virus, then kept them isolated for five days to see which of them succumbed.

His team reported to a conference in Bethesda, Maryland, last month that the most vulnerable were those with long-term conflicts, either at home or in the office. A single row with a spouse or a bad day at work were not significant but "enduring social conflicts" did increase the risk. The results confirm earlier work done in Britain showing that the more stressed individuals are, the more likely they are to catch colds.

Worse still is social isolation. In the Pittsburgh study, people with few contacts either at home, at work, or in sporting or social clubs were four times more likely to become ill than those with six or more types of social contact. This result is in line with past research showing that people with lots of friends and contacts live longer than those who are lonely.



The starting hypothesis for the Pitman and Ryan flood theory came from the Bible story of Noah, which many scientists would think outrageous

## Proving Noah's Flood

"... I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."

Genesis vii; 11

I started off as a joke. Dr William Ryan and Dr Walter Pitman, two American geologists, were working alongside Dr John Dewey, a British contemporary, in 1971. The three had been discussing the sudden flooding of the Mediterranean five million years ago. Dr Dewey, now Professor of

Anjana Ahuja reports on the two American geologists who believe they have convincing evidence that the biblical flood did take place

Earth Science at Oxford University, said: "I wonder if it was anything like Noah's Flood?" Twenty-five years later, Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan, now distinguished authorities on marine geology at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, think they have found evidence that the biblical flood did take place.

Furthermore, they have traced the flood to the flood-prone thousands, triggering a human exodus from the Middle East into Europe many thousands of years ago. Their claims have been met with disbelief, but the geological evidence they have pieced together, which is presented in a *Horizon* documentary next week, is compelling.

Their reasoning starts with the fact that the dramatic biblical story of the Flood, which God visited upon the Earth as punishment for the sins of mankind, has echoes elsewhere. The Epic of Gilgamesh, a Babylonian poem written in the third millennium BC, also features a great flood: "Like a battleaxe, the destructive flood weapon passed over the people. No man could see his fellow, nor could people be distinguished from the sky. Even the gods were afraid of the flood weapon."

The fact that two different accounts appeared in legend led us to wonder if there really was a flood," Dr Ryan says. "If, as the descriptions suggested, it caused whole communities to move, then it was likely that the story of the Flood would be passed down to future generations."

In their spare time, the two scientists began to ponder this fresh challenge. A torrent of biblical proportions required precise geological conditions — a narrow channel through which water could gush once some critical stage was reached. They speculated that the end of an Ice Age would lead sea levels to rise dramatically, and concluded that the most likely site for a catastrophic flow would be a bottle-shaped basin connected to the ocean via a narrow neck.

They found the perfect candidate — the Black Sea. Connected to the Mediterranean by an almost perfect bottleneck, the Bosphorus, there was no question that the Black Sea had been isolated from the Mediterranean during the last Ice Age.

There was one problem. The Black Sea was of strategic importance to the Russians, and was patrolled by the Russian Navy. Instead of collecting their own data, Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman had to



Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan

already been published. They struck lucky — oceanographers had mapped the deepest sections of the Black Sea basin. This survey showed that the Black Sea had been a freshwater lake. "Samples of sediments showed that the water had gone from freshwater to saline about 9,000 years ago, and that this change was very sudden," Dr Pitman says.

Then, out of the blue, a letter from Dr Felko Dimitrov arrived on Dr Ryan's desk. This Bulgarian oceanographer, who had heard about Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman, claimed to have carried out studies in the Seventies showing that the basin of the Black Sea harboured ancient beaches and an old shoreline. These features could, in theory, have been suddenly washed over by a flood: Dr Ryan could not believe his eyes: "I rushed the letter out to Walter and we read it again and again. We were thrilled."

From examining shells he had found on a deep sea expedition, Dr Dimitrov estimated that the water level had risen by 60 metres. The puzzle was beginning to look solvable.

Dr Pitman contacted friends in Turkey, who furnished him with data showing a groove or channel, between 80 and 100 metres deep, leading from the Bosphorus into the Black Sea. This would be consistent with a fast rush of water.

It was not until 1993, however, that Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman could fulfil their ambition of checking out the Black Sea for themselves. They were invited to join a Russian scientific expedition aboard the *Aquanaut*, which was to monitor radioactivity levels in the sea after the Chernobyl incident.

Never in their wildest dreams did the two scientists think they would stumble upon such perfect evidence for their argument. A seismic profile of the seabed revealed a perfectly uniform layer of sedi-

ment was laid down in one sweep, rather than in gradations.

Sediment cores, or samples, showed a sudden change between dry, weathered mud and soft, misty mud. The muddy mud contained molluscs from the Mediterranean; these interlopers must have been swept from their home into the Black Sea in a huge torrent of water.

More startling was the evidence lying in the dry, pre-flood mud — it contained roots of shrubs and vegetation. It seemed as if the Black Sea basin was once a plain, and may even have been inhabited. The Russian crew held a celebratory barbecue in the middle of the Black Sea for their sturgeon guests.

Precise carbon-14 dating brought the flood date forward to 7,550 years ago. The two

marine geologists plan to publish their results soon. But is it the real Flood?

Dr Ryan says: "We have convincing evidence that a flood took place in the Black Sea. The evidence that it is the same one in the Bible and in the Epic of Gilgamesh is circumstantial, and that has led to a friendly dispute between us and archaeologists."

However, the date we have come up with was a benchmark for the rapid radiation of people and farming into Europe."

Dr Pitman, though, is unsurprised by the lukewarm reaction from archaeologists: "They probably get lunatics coming in with crazy ideas all the time. And our starting hypothesis came from the Bible and an ancient legend, which would be considered outrageous by many scientists. But the experts we have spoken to are beginning to realise that this may have been an important event in history."

● *Horizon: Noah's Flood*, Monday December 16, BBC2, 8pm.

THE TIMES

# TOMORROW

FOOTBALL FEATURE

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# ITF COMPETITION

Picture courtesy of NBPA

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# 'I like to think we were a class act'

With his serious swinging days behind him *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times.  
Interview by Giles Whittell



Hefner and playmate Barbara Benton on his DC9 jet

**H**ugh Hefner, playboy of the Western world, greets his visitors nowadays not with bunny girls but with a talking rock. "Welcome to the mansion," a lump of faux-granite intones from the shrubs beside a huge pair of gates not far off Sunset Boulevard. "Please drive up to the forecourt and leave your keys in the car. You will be met."

The gates swing open and you do as you are told. At the top of a steep drive a Hefner factotum emerges as promised from a side door in a mock-Tudor pile that has been the *Playboy* Mansion since 1971.

From outside the place could pass for a Sussex prep school. Inside, a four-foot painting of a nearly-nude Kimberly Hefner (Hef's second wife) dominates the Great Hall. Through an opulent screening room, there is a cosier library; a place of leather armchairs, backgammon boards set in the coffee table and bound volumes of every *Playboy* ever published.

Here the catalyst of the century's most famous orgies has granted an interview as part of a daring bid to reinvent himself as one who "helped define the better part of the last half-century".

Hef — no one calls him Mr Hefner — arrives as usual in a crimson smoking jacket and black silk pyjamas. When he did his most serious swinging — passing the thousand-lover mark, he says — he was lean, dark and in his fifties. Now he is 70. The hair is grey, the voice a bit gurgly after a stroke 11 years ago, the rampaging sex consigned to social history.

He perches on a sofa under a portrait of himself as "Hef the First", a Plantagenet lookalike, and another of his young wives, her breasts this time floating perkily towards

the library's oaken ceiling just as they did in her 1989 *Playmate* of the Year pictorial. Briskly, he swats aside the idea that he was ever a pornographer.

"The *Playmates* have always been rooted in a tradition of American 'good girl' art," he says without a trace of irony. "The pin-up photography of World War Two — the glamour girls, the movie stars, the Betty Grables that's the origin of the *Playmate* centrefolds." To jump him with rivals like Bob Guccione, publisher of the crassly explicit *Penthouse*, is apparently to miss the whole point of *Playboy*. (Hef, whose magazine publishing peers have just bestowed on him the 1996 International Publishing Award, prefers comparisons with *GO* and *Esquire*.) "It was intended as a lifestyle handbook for the young urban male. All the popular men's magazines before it were macho outdoor magazines. I was looking for something a little more sophisticated and romantic."

**A**nd, naked. The first issue of *Playboy* in 1953 featured a famous set of photographs of Marilyn Monroe "with nothing on but the radio". It flew off the news stands. For the next 20 years *Playboy* ruled its niche, but by the early 1970s *Penthouse* and *Hustler* had muscled into the market and pundits gleefully declared the outbreak of the "public wars".

Hefner denies he ever fought them, and he doggedly parries the attacks of feminists. "There was a moment when I did tell my editors, 'enough is enough. I don't want you imitating the imitators.' But I like to think *Playboy* was always a class act." A faraway look passes



Hefner with his wife Kimberly: "We have a lot in common, she's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

over him and he asks if I've seen "the book" — a bumper batch of Hef's favourite *Playmates* from four decades of soft lighting and cheesy sets, just published in America in tasteful white hardback.

"Can anyone seriously, in the real world, believe those images are exploitative?" he asks. "Do the women who have become famous thanks to that appearance in the magazine view it as exploitation? In most cases you'll find they look back on it as a quite remarkable period in their lives."

Hefner believes he and his magazine have taught the rest of us that "nice girls like sex too". This certainly is good to know. And with a passionate *vive la difference!* he dismisses his critics as anti-sex feminists pursuing a fringe political agenda. "The notion that somehow men and women are

the same and should behave the same and dress the same is nonsense. It's not politically correct to say so, but the sexes are complementary. They are in no manner, shape or form the same and thank God for that. It's what makes the world go round. That attraction between the sexes is the major civilising force on the planet."

All of which would seem to make the *Playboy* Mansion the cradle of civilisation. Please, Hef. Say it ain't so. What was the wildest night of your life? He sinks back into the sofa and guffaws. It must be hard, casting back over 30 years as a self-styled symbol of sexual revolution and liberated bachelorhood, to single out one moment of particular excess; harder still considering the first ten were spent in Chicago in a mansion even vaster than the present one, with parties every night and a "harem" of 24 young women for tenants. But he manages.

There was one birthday in the early Eighties when more than a dozen *Playmates* surprised me in the grove," he says. "That was a very nice evening. I love surprises." The grove sits behind the mansion under perhaps a hundred tons of designer crag-scape ringed by a swimming pool and refreshed by an artificial waterfall.

**E**lsewhere on his five-and-a-half acres Hefner maintains 30 squirrel monkeys, an aviary of parakeets and a games room with wall-to-wall pinball machines and a foam-floored, mirror-ceiling decorated sex above (now used chiefly by Kimberly to watch TV with friends).

But the grove is the highlight of any tour. If orgies are your thing, this must be a fun place for them. The pool flows into one cave and, over dimly-lit shallows, into another. Between them a hot tub bubbles in the style of a mineral spring. Lighting, water jets and something labelled "Your Pleasure" are controlled from a panel near the entrance.

With sex toys like this. Weren't there times when Hef lost his grasp of what was real? On the contrary, he says. "Fantasy and reality did blur, but largely in the minds of other people. You don't fly the world in a private jet painted black with a rabbit on the tail, and sleep in a rotating, vibrating round bed, and not know what you're doing — or see the humour in it."

Those were the days. In the late 1960s the *Playboy* empire stretched from a wildly profitable casino in London to the front line in Vietnam, where the magazine arrived by air-drop. With *Playboy* selling more than seven million copies a month, Hefner's net worth was put at over \$200 million. So he travelled in the world's biggest executive jet, a customised, stretched DC-9.

Circulation has since fallen to around three million. The casino has long since been closed down and the jet sold off to a Mexican airline. Hef still drives around LA in a bulletproof Mercedes limo with escort cars in front and behind, but when he flies he buys a ticket.

Guccione and Larry Flynn,

the publisher of *Hustler*, are the ones behind the scandals nowadays. Next to them, Hefner is a pillar of propriety. A "Children at Play" sign in the driveway reminds you he is the devoted father of two young sons, Marston, 6, and Cooper, 5. He likes to be mentioned for his lectures on censorship at the University of

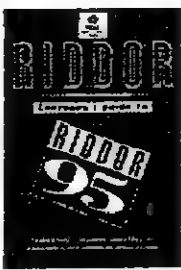
Southern California, and wants his life to be seen as a grand metaphor for his times — from the rigid taboos of his Midwestern upbringing (which fired his fantasies) to the unbridled hedonism of the *Playboy* Mansion in the 1980s (which fired ours). Indeed, the noted feminist Camille Paglia has emerged as a staunch

Hefner fan, calling him: "one of the principal architects of the social revolution".

He is also, at last, monogamous. "Kimberly and I have a lot in common," he explains, dead-pan. "She's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

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# The essential guide to survival

From the simple joys of jelly and Smarties to the final geriatric fling, Joe Joseph on the seven ages of party man

With the Christmas and New Year party season upon us, those of us who relish a good time, the sort of evening where we can really let our hair down among close friends, suddenly find ourselves pulling out our social diaries and feverishly filling in all those blank spaces with appointments and rendezvous.

This way, when each new party invitation arrives, we can flamboyantly rifle through our diary and confirm that — very sadly — we cannot actually attend any gathering on that particular evening because it seems we are expecting the returner from Channel 5. "See? It's written right here. Tuesday? Sorry, that's Hoovering night." (Obviously, there are certain people who ache to be invited to almost anything, and it might be amusing to draw up a list of who they are. Perhaps amusing is too strong a word. Maybe depressing captures it better.)

So now we are free to telephone our close friends, invite them over to share an Indian takeaway and cold beer, and catch up on the latest intimate gossip about mutual acquaintances, which is something you feel you just can't do at a party full of strangers, because the music is too loud to hear properly.

Also, people at parties are preoccupied with other things: for instance, you often see them dashing around eyeing up all the guests, desperate to establish whether, by some Koestleresque fluke, they might actually be at the one thrush of the year not being attended by either Marie Helvin or Yasmin le Bon.

But not everyone feels this way. And even those who do, do not feel this way all the time. Moods change with age. As Shakespeare noticed in *As You Like It*: "All the world's a party. And all the men and women merely partygoers. They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time attends many parties, his attendances being divided into seven ages."

These, then, are the seven ages of party man.

"At first the infant, mewling and puking". Probably the last time in a partygoer's life when the "mewling and puking" will not have been brought on by too much liquor. Adults try to enjoy the best days of their lives. But children never believe them, because children have not yet understood that this is the last time in their lives that they will feel happy and then throw up — for no more than the cost of a tube of Smarties, a bowl of Hula-Hoops and three slabs of heavily-iced chocolate cake.

At this age, boys at parties fantasise about not getting scolded for coming home with chocolate-spread smeared all over their legs — not yet aware that what is called "a mess" when spattered on a five-year-old's legs is called "erotic chocolate body paint" when



Thirtysomethings at play: at the fourth age of partygoing, we are unlikely to find ourselves at the wilder bashes — but everyone can fantasise about being young, sexy and single.

rubbed by randy adults on each other.

"And then the whining schoolboy". Young men reach their sexual peak in their teens. This is also the age at which they are at their keenest to go to parties. There may be some connection. How can you tell they are keen? Because they spend seven hours preparing for the outing. Contrast this with the thirtysomething's concept of "making an effort", which consists of trying their best not to break wind in public, at least not next to the buffet table.

This is the age when the male partygoer fantasises that his mates will mistake his long absence from the dancefloor —

when he was in the upstairs lavatory, throwing up on older — as evidence that he had finally managed to persuade Daisy to go the whole hog, under the coat pile.

"Then the lover, sighing like furnace". Men and women in their late teens and early twenties are usually willing partygoers, because at this age Nature steps in. They are driven by their body's basic biological imperative to rush out as often as possible to other people's parties because this kind of social interaction dramatically increases their chances of holding something more exciting than biscuits dipped in taramasalata that's past its sell-by date. The target of male fantasies during this phase of their partying life is, for some bizarre arithmetical reason, the woman with whom they have the most improbable chance of success. It's one of God's weirder forms of contraception.



The final age... and it is party time once again

"Then a soldier, full of strange oaths". As they enter their thirties, men and women become foot soldiers in some giant corporate army, spending their days tapping away at computer keyboards, and their partygoing enters a new phase. Having found a mate, they go only to parties of dear friends or family.

This is the age-group of the dinner party, a phase in your life when you spend all Saturday flicking through your shelf of cookery books looking for a recipe which is enticing, doesn't require star anise, and also takes less than 20 minutes to prepare. At 5.30pm you again decide to cook the same

dullish-but-reliable menu that you have given your dinner guests for the past eight years. The sexual element is confined to flirting over drinks.

"And then the justice... full of wise saws and modern instances". In their forties, men and women find themselves at parties when they are delivering or collecting their children from birthday gatherings. Or else they are recently divorced and are going round the board again: they do this with greater or lesser enthusiasm, depending on whether or not they collected £200 a day in alimony when they passed Go. Their adult parties are now



The first age... and the last time partygoers will be able to have simple, unselfconscious fun

more usually the by-product of other activities: the cricket club summer ball, the rugby club dinner-dance, the Masonic ladies' night, the school parents' fundraising cheese-and-wine (with raffle: first prize — a Jeroboam of Moët; second prize — two tickets for any Odeon cinema; third prize — two hours of private piano tuition with Miss Buckram, the junior music teacher).

The other prominent diary entry is the Christmas office party, which is less promising than it was 20 years ago because (a) you are 20 years older; (b) your boss is 20 years older; (c) the woman you got frisky with at office parties 20 years ago now is your boss. Partygoers in their forties don't fantasise as much they used to. Those that still do, fantasise about winning third prize in the cheese-and-wine raffle.

"The sixth age slips into the lean and slippered pantaloon". Entering their fifties

and sixties, people attend each other's wedding anniversaries, golf club dinners, and retirement or redundancy bashes. They don't party *chez nous* so much as *en masse*, on Caribbean cruises, because they have fallen out with their children and want to squander all their cash before they shuffle off.

Men in their late fifties and beyond no longer wonder what it might have been like if they had married one of their female friends rather than the wife they chose, because their minds are now preoccupied with fantasising about their female friends' daughters.

"Last scene of all... Is second childishness... Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". In their seventies and eighties, people like to party once again because, as Shakespeare pointed out, they have reached a second childishness. Often they are too frail to travel alone, so have to be ferried to

and from parties as they were when they were five. They often eat as messily, too. They bounce like yo-yos not because they are playing a party game, but because they are showing off their new mental hip joint. Attendance at parties becomes a parade of honour of life's survivors.

Men in their eighties might look as if they lack the will, but they still have strong sexual passions: like Woody Allen, they fantasise that when they do eventually die they will be reincarnated as Warren Beatty's fingertips.

Some go further. One was so convinced of his need to smile more often that he took himself off to Stanford Shopping Centre and went home only after smiling at 1,000 people. "It can seem contrived," says one expert, "but it works. It's really thrilling, like seeing someone being reborn and come alive."

● The Shyness Clinic, which has treated clients from as far away as Indonesia, is at 4370 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California 94028. Tel: (415) 415 328 6115.

## SHYNESS

It's everywhere. In the media, on the high street, at work and at home, nowhere on the globe, it seems, is there an oasis where people are not bracing themselves for the onset of the party season. Hard to imagine that the cheerful prospect of several weeks' worth of strong drink and vigorous social interaction could strike dread into anyone's heart. But for a significant — and increasing — minority, the prospect of Christmas socialising is not a pleasure, but a very real ordeal.

Research has shown that at least 40 per cent of us suffer from chronic shyness, a "self-imposed prison of silence in solitary confinement", as Dr Philip Zimbardo, a shyness specialist, describes it, severe enough to interfere significantly with our private and working lives.

Very shy people can take a lifetime to recognise and control their symptoms, but according to Dr Lynne Henderson, one of America's foremost shyness experts, shyness is more likely to be learnt or fostered on us than inbred. The key to beating it is therefore to unlearn it.

Fifteen years ago, Dr Henderson set up the world's first shyness clinic near California's Stanford University. Every fortnight, shy people wanting tips on being braver turn up at the clinic's free "drop-in" sessions, where they can relearn the business of being a social animal and learn to deal with the sort of fears that only the most brazen never feel.

Most of us, mercifully, can get over shyness even if we are born with it. The Shyness Clinic wants to help the large minority of the human race who aren't so lucky. Dr Henderson's central idea is simple: social fitness, like physical fitness, needs to be worked at.

"Few people turn into world-class athletes," she says. "In the same way, few people feel totally comfortable in every social setting, but everyone can connect with others in ways that are both emotionally satisfying and productive."

Some just need prodding. For them, Henderson has devised what she calls a social fitness model which is the basis of her clinic's treatment. The model is a set of goals ranging from relearning basic conversational skills to handling criticism, expressing emotions and "learning to say no". Most of the work is done in small groups at the clinic, but there is also "homework", often consisting of telephone calls that clients challenge themselves to make — to friends, colleagues, or fellow "shys".

Some go further. One was so convinced of his need to smile more often that he took himself off to Stanford Shopping Centre and went home only after smiling at 1,000 people. "It can seem contrived," says one expert, "but it works. It's really thrilling, like seeing someone being reborn and come alive."

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GILES WHITTELL

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# in the Christmas party season

## THE WAY WE WERE

I am afraid that parties have lost their charm for me. Years ago, I sought them out and there was nearly always someone or other who would be giving some sort of thrash on a Saturday night. St Martin's School of Art and the other loafers in Soho made up a small population who would drop almost anything and go almost anywhere to crack open a bottle and give the night away.

It was horribly uncomfortable. The truth of the matter is that we would end up sitting on the floor, drinking the final dregs of some plonk out of a teacup, having already run out of cigarettes and then, usually penniless, have to walk all the way home. And there was usually a fight.

Oddly enough, there was more violence of a sort in the Fifties than now. Queensbury Rules stuff, mind you, but it was common practice to settle rows and arguments with fists and that was frequently the low ebb of the evening.

Now they just talk about money and serve only wine

A good party then and in one's youth was a party where you or I met someone wonderful and beautiful who would leave with you, walk out into the dawn with you, and then go to bed with you. Those days are over. For me, anyway.

At 18, or thereabouts, one is easily entertained. Sitting about drinking rubbish to the sound of Dixieland jazz is not appealing and today's parties to be avoided are those given by art galleries for private views and publishers to launch books. Everybody talks about money all the time and most of them serve only wine as though it is the only drink in the world. Even at the classier ones it is a thoughtless assumption to take it that everybody adores champagne.

I fear that it sounds horribly snooty to say so, but I find that as the years go by the best parties are given by those who can simply afford to give them. All the spirits and mixes should be available, plus good beer. A party is not, or should not be, a private wine-tasting. Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink. That is sadly rare.

There is, however, one fairly awful party, and it is starting everywhere now — the Christmas office party. I have come



Jeffrey Bernard: a good party was one where one met someone wonderful and beautiful. Those days are over for me

to savour and relish the subordinate office minion taking his or her Dutch courage in both hands to tell the boss tycoon what they really think of them. Bosses should avoid their own shindigs. At one such do at a newspaper office I once counted no fewer than 12 female secretaries crying at the end of the evening. Christmas is the deep end for those who paddle during the rest of the year. But now that I have lost my confidence, I have lost my

optimism too. The chances of finding Miss Right at a party now that I am 64 and wheelchair-bound are just a little remote, one million-to-one. Parties for me now are noisy gatherings in which at wheelchair-level all I can see is a sea of bums, while people bump into me or trap me against walls in corners. Anyway, Miss Right is usually married to Mr Right.

JEFFREY BERNARD

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## SURVIVAL TIPS FROM THE FAMOUS

### Jilly Cooper



I LOVE parties, but I'm stuck in the country so I can't go to all that many. I couldn't manage them without a drink in my hand, and it is so much nicer if the people are nice.

The ghastliest thing is to be standing about with nobody to talk to. The fear of being a wallflower hangs over from my youth. I suppose if you are vaguely famous it is a help, because people will come up to you.

I would hate to be young and going to parties now, because pouncing is not allowed, is it? I think everyone should make it their business, if they see someone standing on their own, to go up and talk to them.

### Lady Elizabeth Arson



I AM agonisingly shy at parties. The best solution is to pretend that I am organising the party, even if I'm not. I suffer from shy-blindness, which means that when I get there all the faces go blank. I think a lot of people suffer from it. I feel better if I stride around looking purposeful. I do envy people who aren't shy, but I

sympathise heavily with those who are shy-blind, and always try to talk to them and make them feel part of things.

### Michael Winner



I AM extremely shy at parties, so shy in fact, that I go to only a small fraction of the many I am invited to. People often come up and talk to me who I am not interested in at all. I used to be so paranoid and shy that I never went out to parties. I had to learn to be nice to uninteresting people, which I found exhausting even then.

### Beryl Bainbridge



I LOVE going to parties but my biggest fear is entering a room on my own. So what I tend to do is grab a drink and have a quick look around to see if I know anyone. If I do, then I stay; if I don't, I pretend that I have forgotten something and sneak out, never to return. I've always been a bit shy about approaching people. I'm going to drink, smoke and eat as much as I can — and then, after Christmas, I shall spend three days in bed eating nothing and drinking only water.

### Dame Barbara Cartland



WHEN I was young Christmas parties were such romantic occasions. If you were shy, as I was as a young girl, the men looked after you. They made sure that you had a partner with whom to dance, and you were never left to sit on your own. But I'm afraid that young women of today are so independent that the idea of being chaperoned is anathema to them. The key to enjoying parties is not to drink too much and to dance cheek to cheek. I shall go to as many parties as I can during the Christmas period. My only sadness is that my dear friend Lord Brockton is in prison and won't be able to share in all the fun.

### Emily Mortimer



MY main worry is not knowing what to say. You are in a no-win situation because you are either trying to escape from someone, or you are convinced that someone is trying to avoid you. As an actress, I receive a lot of invitations. I am surprised at how many people expect me to be thick. I guess it goes with the job.

## The secret to staying sober

NATURE is no more fair in distributing the gift of being able to metabolise alcohol quickly than it is in the way it apportions the rest of its bounty.

Until they reach the menopause, women absorb alcohol more quickly, and metabolise it more slowly than men. Therefore they become drunk faster, but take longer to sober up.

In men, an alcohol metabolising enzyme is secreted in the stomach as well as the liver. It is also popularly believed that in women the

alcohol passes more rapidly from the stomach into the small intestine, from where it is more promptly absorbed.

After the menopause a woman's ability to deal with alcohol more closely resembles that of a man.

The stomach is emptied less quickly if milk, or other fatty food, has been taken first. Bland drinks, particularly if they are fizzy like champagne, slip more easily through the stomach into the intestine than do spirits. From there they pass swiftly into the bloodstream.

Alcohol drunk with a meal is absorbed at a pace which is not so likely to lead to trouble. The average person is assumed to metabolise alcohol at the rate of one standard unit an hour. The term unit refers to a measure of spirits, a standard glass of wine, or half a pint of medium-strength beer or cider.

The secret of enjoying the party, and breakfast next day, is to have milk before going out and to eat when drinking.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### ■ OPERA

Jonathan Miller's delicious staging of *The Mikado* comes back to the London Coliseum  
OPENS: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



### ■ JAZZ

A female Harry Connick? Rising singing star Diana Krall performs at Pizza Express, Soho  
GIG: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### ■ THEATRE

Roald Dahl's *The Witches* returns to the West End for a Christmas season at the Vaudeville  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### ■ BOOKS

Israel's Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, writes a handbook on *Fighting Terrorism*  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday

I find it hard to understand why Mrs Bottomley is not the most popular politician in Britain. She looks good, sounds good and always wants to do so much good. She is telegenic, photogenic, radio-highly active, and every time I meet her I think she's bound to be a winner. She is the minister of fun, and yet all she collects are catcalls. Why?

Recently, that distinguished economics commentator Sir Samuel Brittan wrote an article on the subject of Darwin and economics which he titled: "It's the biology, stupid". Given leave to employ a similar colloquial directness, if I were to say in a sentence why I thought Mrs Bottomley's name was not sung from the hillsides, chanted on the terraces and remembered in prayers I would reply: "It's the lottery, stupid".

The lottery adds to the gaiety of the nation, profits a few surprisingly decent citizens, and benefits a myriad of organisations throughout the land. Yet it has about it that unmistakable ring of no confi-

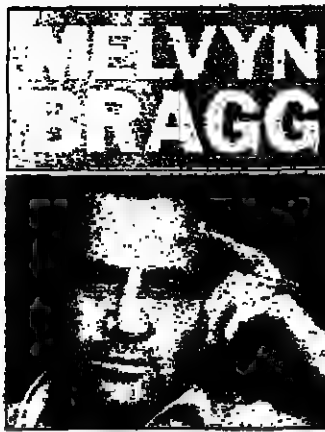
dence and alas, it all rubs off on Mrs Bottomley. She ought to be its queen bee. Adoring swarms should gather around her wherever she settles. Instead, most of what she gets is blame. Blame for giving too much to too few and too little to too many. Blame for the perceived overcompensation of Camelot, and blame for all the inevitable grudges which always outnumber gratitude.

Who is responsible for transforming this bouquet into a poisoned chalice? Cutting through Marxist and societal views of history, I would settle this time on individuals. Their lordships, I'm afraid, are responsible. Their lordships have not looked after their lady.

I refer here to their two lordships, Rothschild and Gower. Lord Gower, a warm acquaintance from long back and full of

fine deeds, seems an unlikely suspect; if it were possible to be even less likely a suspect, Lord Rothschild is that man. Yet it is because of them, I believe, that she does not wear the crown of a triumphant Tory populism.

From the outset (with that dire, politically inept and badly handled overpayment for the Churchill documents, which many people in Britain thought we might already own) there has been a whiff of the *droit de seigneur* — that the first dawning should come from the ancient regime. But this is public buncie. To see it dished out by those who have so much already, and too often, it seemed, to those who already have so much, was unacceptable. Those were the smoke signals from the lottery, and there was sufficient fire to keep the smoke going. Unfortunately for Mrs Bottomley, it fell into the gift



of those who, enormously enlightened though they are, epitomise and indeed seem to practise *haut en bas* dispensation — out of touch with the times. But the lottery is modern.

So the lottery began at the top with the toffs and has not been able to shake this off. In some ways it has been on the run ever since, thus clouding Mrs B's opportunity to shine in a job for which she was surely sculpted by fortune, and one in which she could have won loud hurrahs for her party.

Of course — particularly in the past few weeks — it has begun to tackle its own prematurely archaic rules and organisation. It has taken a rather feeble shot at flexibility and a slightly better shot at populist buncie. But it may be too late. See how easily a document from the Labour Party which, among other things, queried Camelot, addressed the doubtful double role of the Director-General of Oflot, and came up with imaginative suggestions such as a community chest — and the

targeting of gifted children — how easily that makes the present engine look clanky.

The suspicion lingers that little thought was given to this grand opportunity. An aristocratic wave was never going to be enough, and the wave is rather a wave of goodbye to a wonderful chance Mrs Bottomley had to become a folk heroine.

You cannot expect order at the annual comedy awards. I was in the studio when the live events took place, and frankly at times I rather longed for more disorder than the general rowdiness which grew as the evening went on and the alcohol slid down. Spontaneous sallies from the audience, perhaps, to test the locomotive delivery of Jonathan Ross — he could cope, or a recipient who defied the three-line whip of 20

seconds of galloped thanks, and embarked on a shaggy dog story or forgot his name or sang a silly song. People are rattled on and off rather uncomfortably. The bar-raising was not well received by the massed comedians present — a good litmus test that it was not funny. The constant references to getting "pissed" were so true as to be more in the realm of documentaries than comedy.

And there is a recent, threatening development in such awards. That is the sending up of the person who makes the award, the person who receives the award, or both. We are told that the tyrannical younger viewer enjoys this and it can keep the show lively. But it also keeps it free of emotion, free of much sense of achievement and free of a sense of a classy event. Two of the older winners showed that the old way might still have some juice in it. Cilla Black was moved by what she clearly felt was a great moment: Dave Allen was truly witty. Honour was saved, applause was heartfelt.

## Why they'll always boo poor Mrs B

## A departure for Domingo

SOMETIMES lightning strikes during an opera performance, not very often, and occasionally in the unlikely circumstances. When it happens, Dr Johnson's "exotic and irrational entertainment" becomes a theatrical experience like no other.

It happened at Covent Garden on Friday in what the cynical might describe as unlikely circumstances: a one-off performance of *Die Walküre*, at gala prices to celebrate Plácido Domingo's 25th anni-

as beautifully sung a Siegmund as you could hope to hear. And as if to confound cynics, he entered fully into the spirit and the letter of the unconventional Richard Jones production.

He was joined in what was previously the most weakly cast section of this *Ring* by an outstanding Sieglinde, Karen Huffnagel. She is a soprano who always gives 110 per cent in performance, and then a bit more: she was in radiant, rock-steady voice and unleashed torrents of impassioned yet perfectly controlled singing. With Deborah Polaski (Brünnhilde), Jane Henschel (Fricka) and John Tomlinson (Wotan) all in even better form than for the recent cycles, this was an evening of rare vocal splendour.

versary with the Royal Opera and to launch a week in which he is generously presiding over fundraising for the Development Appeal.

Instead of singing Cavardossi — with which he made his debut in 1971 — as originally announced, Domingo chose to undertake his first Wagner role in London, Siegmund. It was a carry decision. The part lies perfectly for him, not too high, and exploiting the strength in the middle of his voice: there are precedents — Vickers, Vinay — for Otellos who are also fine Siegmunds. Add the Latin warmth of his sound and an Italianate sense of musical line, and you have

There were moments in the first act when it sounded as if a little more rehearsal might have been desirable, but Simone Young, also new to Wagner here, negotiated one or two awkward corners with an admirably cool head. Confidence and concentration grew in the second act, with a breakneck prelude and a perfectly paced account of the tricky Annunciation of Death, and lightning struck. The third act was simply electric from beginning to end. A thrilling evening, one that those lucky enough to attend will not easily forget.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: A children's fairy-tale full of fun; plus bitter badinage from a disabled company

## A feast of beastly riches

### Not deaf to the issues

"A FAIRY-TALE thriller" is the subtitle of this year's Christmas show and the production certainly lives up to the description, with its abrupt extinction of lights in the auditorium (excited shrieks from the rows of school parties), the jump-cuts between scenes, and the agonised roars from the Beast.

Laurence Boswell sets the adventures in a fairy-tale France where Beauty's family, in their early years of wealth, wear 18th-century costume and spun-sugar wigs. The cast enters down the aisles of the theatre, chatting up the audience.

The set is a round, planked stage from which walkways slope up to three towering wardrobes, and at the start of the evening eight elegant metal chairs are arranged in a line across the diameter. Beauty's parents, her brothers and sisters, perch on these, tossing the narrative line between them, and a particularly effective moment deriving from this occurs when Beauty's mother dies: the actress (Jan Pearson) stands up as if surprised by the announcement and slowly, reluctantly moves away.

Liz May Brice's Beauty, her face expressing wonder, courtesy, moments of irritation but unflinching true grit, undergoes

the usual fairy-tale journey that climaxes, as it does in Strindberg's *Swanwhite* at the Gate, with an act of redemptive love. I have some difficulty with this concept, and a review of a Christmas show is not the place to enlarge upon it, but Boswell's plot throws a small wobble by not explaining why the Beast (Simon Gregor, growing behind the mask) is under a curse in the first place.

A glance at the text in the programme reveals the character of a wicked queen who may have made her final exit during rehearsal.

Her departure leaves a slit in the logic but damages nei-

ther the excitement of Beauty's adventures, nor a spirit of fun that keeps bubbling back into the production. Gary Sefton's summing robotic servant is an excellent creation, and Vicki Pepperdine's automaton Maid is neatly funny too.

The character of the music (composer: Mick Sands) ingeniously changes as the story moves forward: Baroque elegance giving place to rustic jigs and, once the palace is reached, to Arabic, Indian and African melodies. Boswell's production gives plenty of enjoyable riches for the imagination to feed upon.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Simon Gregor in a mask part dragon's head, part tree root, and Liz May Brice as Beauty

A NUMBER of devils are set up to be knocked down in this collaboration between Graeme, Britain's leading disabled people's theatre company, and Basic Theatre, a black disabled company. Roy Winston's plot involves four black performers who represent Britain at an arts festival in America, where they are subjected to manipulative niceness by the organisers and

### Sympathy for the Devil Tricycle

calls for militant agitation by Jud Evans, a white disabled-rights activist played by Jonathan Keeble.

As the badinage becomes more bitter, the members of the group dispute whether they owe allegiance to the black community, the disabled or their own individual desires. Consider that the group's director and dancer are in the midst of an affair, and you can imagine how the plot thickens.

Winston's best writing concerns pairs of characters. In one encounter, the group's partially deaf leader, Ray Harrison Graham's Fitzroy, explains to his incredulous mother (Deborah A. Williams) that he wants to marry a blind girl. Another features the one-handed Jackie (Williams again) and the blind Chantelle (Maria Osibodi), each of whom expounds with increasing spite on the romantic circumstances of her companion.

The writing in these scenes is absorbingly honest, and Graham himself directs with appropriate vigour.

ANDY LAVENDER

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## Matthew Parris



■ Even six years on, the tribe still has a deep feeling of guilt, which explains its death-wish

SOME six years ago I tried in a *Times* parliamentary sketch to capture the Tory mood at the demise of Margaret Thatcher. And not only the mood, but (as I supposed) the forces I sensed at work within the parliamentary Conservative Party at that time.

I wrote of "the tribe". The tribe had suffered a great internal convulsion. They have not, as individuals, known what they were doing, but the tribe has known what it was doing.

They lashed out at the media, they lashed out at Europe, they lashed out at the Opposition, and they lashed out at each other.

"One of the elders of the tribe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, began to speak. He spoke almost in tongues; he spoke as if he had never spoken. He poured down imprecations on the head of the leader." Then Heseltine wielded the dagger. "With the leader now wounded, her own senior tribesmen drew back with one accord and left her. Suddenly alone, she hesitated, then staggered from the stage."

"The tribe mourned her departure. Not falsely or without feeling they wept. Then the tribe fell upon her assailant, Michael Heseltine, and slew him too — with many shouts of anger. Real anger."

It could have been done as ballet. It had all the elements of a classical drama. Like Greek tragedy, the tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to her. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. John Major and the electorate cheated them of their catharsis.

For the Tory tribe, Mr Major has become a totum for its inability to say sorry. In hating him, they hate themselves and their own treachery. He was not the perpetrator of the treachery, but he was its beneficiary. Still alive and visibly distraught, Baroness Thatcher hangs still in the tribe's imaginative memory as a symbol of their undeserving.

The parliamentary Conservative Party does not believe in its own re-election would be just. Though any one of them can pretend otherwise, the tribe cannot pretend as a tribe. In this Gadarene flight towards nemesis, the tribe is being resisted by a Prime Minister who can see the cliff, and an electorate that, however it may dislike the Tories, is not convinced by the alternative.

Mr Major's efforts, however, may be futile. One person could save him, and that is Margaret Thatcher.

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Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought 'I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett.' Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in."

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"It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show"

The Prime Minister has decided not to join the single currency, but cannot bring himself to say so

# What Major meant to say was No

THE Prime Minister must have been well pleased with the success of yesterday's BBC interview with John Humphrys. He handles these big interviews very well. He sometimes sounds rather peevish at Prime Minister's Questions, but in these television interviews he usually sounds moderate, decisive and pleasantly relaxed. Yesterday's came after a bad week, which included the loss of his majority, a horrible opinion poll and some indiscreet lobby talk by Kenneth Clarke. John Major was not only able to defend himself from these tactical reverses, but to establish a moderate Euro-sceptic strategy for the general election.

The election will be in the spring, probably on May 1. The Amsterdam conference, which will decide the difficult issues of the inter-governmental conference, will be held in June. John Major yesterday made it clear that he is going to campaign on the theme: "Would you rather have Tony Blair going to Amsterdam and signing away the national interests of the United Kingdom which I have been fighting to defend?" Last Monday the mysterious source close to John Major flew a trial balloon in *The Daily Telegraph*. The source suggested there might be a commitment not to join the single currency in the next Parliament. The source found, and John Major found, the apple not yet ripe; indeed it proved to be green and bitter. The Prime Minister then had to reaffirm the old and shopworn open-option policy, and the trial balloon was shot down by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. That does not mean that John Major might not have preferred to fight the next election on a policy of "no single currency in the next Parliament".

The Prime Minister is at his most formidable when he appears to be surrounded. Clarke and Heseltine

did put a stop to him making the direct challenge to Labour on the single currency. But each month that the election gets closer, Clarke and Heseltine become less powerful. They should not be provoked beyond endurance, but they will not be able to dictate policy during the campaign. If John Major wins, he will not be under any further obligation to either of them. They would then be people of no importance.

The policy John Major actually outlined to John Humphrys substituted a second-best but almost equally useful line on the single currency. John Major refused once again to rule out British entry, but he did emphatically rule it out if the potential members do not genuinely meet the Maastricht criteria. "If they are fudging the criteria, there is no question of the UK joining," he said. He also said the European economic convergence must be "sustainable". By next April there will be even more evidence on these points. There have already been notorious fudges in both France and Italy; neither country is likely to meet the budget deficit criterion by "sustainable" means. In an April campaign, the Prime Minister will be free to look at this evidence; if he concludes that there has been no sustainable convergence, he can then point back to this interview and say that he has long made it clear that there was no question of Britain joining an unsustainable euro-currency.

He also specified a number of other points which Britain will not accept in Amsterdam next June if he is still Prime Minister. He will not hand over to the European Union control of policy on borders, immigration and asylum. He will not accept qualified majority voting for a common European foreign policy. He will not accept any massive increase in majority voting. He will not accept a transfer of responsibility for employment policy, particularly as

William Rees-Mogg

our unemployment is now falling, while that of France and Italy is much higher.

In their comments after the broadcast, John Redwood, Geoffrey Howe and Peter Lilley all expressed their satisfaction at what had been said, which suggests that at least one of them may have misunderstood the Prime Minister's message. I found myself in particular agreement with Peter Lilley's observation that it was now time to press Labour for answers on Europe. The Conservative position is now reasonably clear, even if it is not as frank on the single currency as it should be. It centres on

the acceptance of a flexible European Union, with countries choosing to be in or out of particular commitments, including the single currency. The slogan is "co-operation, yes; centralisation, no". The Conservatives are not going to join in any great extension of the integration of Britain into Europe. The public do not want that either.

Which of John Major's relatively Euro-sceptic policies will Labour adopt? If Tony Blair goes to Amsterdam, and it is still probable that he will, will he accept the programmes for centralisation proposed by some other European countries? Is he going to take Britain into a fudged single currency? Will he, as seems to be Labour policy, be willing to accept much more qualified majority voting? Will he depend on the customs officers of Naples, as the distant guardians of Britain against drug-smugglers and terrorists? Is he going to commit British Forces to back a foreign policy decided by the majority votes of countries who will make virtually no contribution of their own?

Strangely enough, John Major, in what was much the least satisfactory passage of the interview, gave Tony Blair a defence for refusing to answer these questions — although I hope Blair will not use it. Major complained that his critics were damaging his negotiating position, and used the metaphor of the poker table. Since

the time of Harold Macmillan I have learnt to distrust politicians who use metaphors derived from gambling. Major said that if you are "playing poker with 14 other skilled players, you don't turn your cards face up," and claimed he had "good reason to be opaque". On Europe, in the past, he has destroyed public confidence by being far too opaque.

At the next election, neither John Major nor Tony Blair will be playing poker, which is a game of deceit, but the game of democracy. Entering the single currency is the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market. Almost all the relevant facts are known already. By the election there will be more than ample evidence on which to decide whether Britain should go in or stay out. Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out, which in substance he has already taken. That is itself a serious weakness of the Conservative campaign. But John Major has found a way to sidestep Kenneth Clarke, and in April there will be little doubt about the real thrust of Conservative policy.

The Labour position on Europe is in much greater doubt. We know they are more Europhile than the Conservatives but we do not know what that means. I doubt whether Tony Blair would take us into a single currency; the referendum commitment probably ties his hands anyway. I fear that Tony Blair might agree to unacceptable centralising measures at Amsterdam through inexperience and a good natural desire to make a good impression on his first big European occasion. If so, he will regret it later on. What is certain is that Labour will have to answer the European questions. Once again, like a skilful dentist, John Major has managed to find a gold filling in what appeared 24 hours ago to be the jaws of death.

## It's too late now to change

Peter Riddell says voters have already made up their minds about the parties

JOHN Major yesterday presented the best case for the Government and its European policies that I have heard for a long time. His approach is not only in the national interest but is also politically right. But it probably comes too late, since the Tories appear in no mood to come to their senses. It is a fantasy to believe that a dramatic new initiative or change of course in Europe would suddenly improve the Tories' prospects, rather than damage them further.

Barring acts of God, wars or sudden deaths, the decisive shift in public opinion has already occurred as a result of the Tories' earlier mistakes and divisions and of the reinvention of Labour under Tony Blair. What happens between now and polling day may affect the scale of victory or defeat, but not which party wins. These months are highly unlikely to save the Conservatives.

Of course, the size of any majority is important, not least to individual MPs and candidates. But campaigns, whether the current preliminary skirmishing or the final four-week battle, are nearly as important as politicians and the media like to believe. It is easy for insiders to become caught up in the latest propaganda exchanges or rows of the day, and to believe they have a big impact. There is little evidence that the battle over "Jennifer's ear" or Neil Kinnock's triumphalist Sheffield rally made any real difference to the 1992 result. The public is more detached and sensible.

Elections are very seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Admittedly, many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on



their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign, as opposed to the more need to make a decision. Levels of party support do shift during campaigns, often to favour the third party, but these changes have very seldom been enough to alter the result. Most movements cancel each other out, while many undecided or hesitant voters revert to previous loyalties.

Based on the comprehensive data of the long-running British Election Study, the several authors of *Labour's Last Chance?* concluded that in 1992 it was "very unlikely that Labour could have done anything in the campaign to have generated enough votes for an overall majority or even to have made it the largest party in a hung Parliament... The 1992 election was like most of its

predecessors won and lost before the official campaign ever began."

But campaign strategists still have a powerful hold. Labour was, for example, widely thought to have "won" the 1987 and 1992 campaigns, and some of its leaders congratulated themselves on having fought a "good" war, even though the party lost where it really mattered, in the ballot box. Professor Dennis Kavanagh, one of Britain's leading political academics, argues in his book *Election Campaigning* that communications and media strategies can distract politicians, and commentators, from the underlying policy problems of parties. Rather than campaigns, "enduring forces like the voters' social class, religion,

party identification, the Government's record and longstanding images of the parties are more electorally decisive". Most campaign activities are of "marginal importance one way or the other in deciding the election outcome — although in close-run contests they can mean the difference between defeat and victory, and politicians are motivated by the possibility that their efforts might make the difference."

The millions of pounds poured into campaigns are mainly a defensive exercise, to prevent opponents gaining an edge. There is always the fear that something might go disastrously wrong — a fear that Margaret Thatcher felt even at the height of her success. And there is the awful warning of Labour's self-destruction under Michael Foot in 1983.

Campaigning can still be impor-

tant at a local level. There is evidence that energetic local campaigning, aimed at target groups of voters, can make a difference of at least a few hundred votes, enough to win or lose in close contests. After all, Labour won about 20 more seats in 1992 than would have been expected given its national share of the vote. This partly reflected its concentration on critical marginals. If the Tories had held on, Mr Major would have had much more room for manoeuvre since 1992.

Parties will always campaign aggressively in the belief that somebody might be influenced. The most effective strategies are those that reinforce existing images. It is not possible to change the public's view of a party, or a leader, during the run-up to polling day. A sudden change will be unconvincing. That is why it is ludicrous for the hard-core sceptics to argue that Tory prospects could be transformed if Mr Major ruled out participation in a single currency. A sizeable minority of committed Tories certainly regard Europe as their top priority, and the issue has been moving up the rankings of importance among voters generally, but it is still well behind health, education, law and order and the economy. Europe is not a vote-winner. Any supposed gains would anyway be more than cancelled out by the losses from the resulting party splits and obvious inconsistencies in policy.

The Tories' only real course is to play the Honest John card, as Mr Major did in his *On the Record* interview. He is at his best when he appears as the man of common sense and experience, and at his worst when he is the partisan and strident party leader. The Tories can claim to have taken necessary tough decisions on the economy and public services, and can contrast this with Labour's evasions. Just as it would be foolish for Labour to compete with the Tories on tax-cutting, so it would be counterproductive for the Tories to abandon their current European policy and to dump a highly successful Chancellor like Kenneth Clarke. Voters are repelled, rather than attracted, by such panicky gestures.

## Blair block

JOHN MAJOR'S interview yesterday for the BBC was unprecedented in taking place not in No 10 but in the Prime Minister's cane-furniture conservatory in Huntingdon. But an interview with Tony Blair at his house in Islington, or anywhere else for that matter, would have been even more surprising.

Despite repeated requests from the BBC, Blair hasn't found time for a Sunday lunchtime grilling in the past two years. His most recent appearance was in January 1995, talk at the corporation is that he is frightened of a 50-minute going-over from John Humphrys.

Such suggestions are dismissed by the Labour leader's office as "pathetic", and party sources claim that he is deliberately snubbing the programme. Blair simply hasn't been seeing eye to eye with his editor, David Jordan, they say.

"Perhaps if David Jordan had not been so instrumental in defending *Panorama*'s plan to screen an interview with Major just days before Scotland's local elections — a plan which was scuppered by the courts — Tony might have been better disposed towards *On the*

Record," explained one Blairite. Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought 'I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett.' Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in."

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● Tony Blair and his family and friends spent Saturday evening celebrating his younger son Nicholas's 10th birthday at Babe Ruth's, a sports-themed restaurant in east London not renowned for its food. After the meal, Blair Sr joined Nicholas for a game of basketball on a mini-pitch in the restaurant. Nicholas wore his birthday present, a Manchester United shirt. Blair and number 10 were written on the back.

Yawn radio

AVOID THE radio station Classic FM on Christmas Day, for Westminster's politicians are taking over and broadcasting for much of the afternoon. The likes of Diane Abbott, Jerry Hayes and Edwina Currie (who else?) will be performing in a version of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Iolanthe*.

It sounds difficult enough to bear even without a plot which involves Abbott marrying Hayes. Light relief comes in the form of Lords Healey and Howe, who each make a cameo appearance. And then there is Clare Short in her role as Queen of the Fairies. I shall not be on their wavelength.

● With justice denied him in his home country, France's flying



dwarf, Manuel Wackenheim, is turning elsewhere to defend his right to be shot out of a cannon. In 1991, the French Ministry for the Interior declared that *Wackenheim's* projectile vivand *was* "a danger to public morality". France's highest administrative court, the *Conseil d'Etat*, upheld the ban and the European Court of Human Rights has other things to discuss, so Wackenheim is taking his case to the International Court of Justice instead.

Far right

ALESSANDRA MUSSOLINI, the granddaughter of Il Duce — who has fortunately inherited her looks from her aunt, Sophia Loren, rather than her grandfather — has returned to the bosom of the post-

Fascist party in Italy, the Alleanza Nazionale.

It was just three weeks ago that she flounced off from the party declaring that the post-Fascist leader, Gianfranco Fini, had lost his way. She joined a party yet further to the right, the Tricolour Flame, which claims to be loyal to the traditions of Mussolini's Blackshirts, and still does the Fascist salute at its party congresses.

At the weekend, Signor Fini boasted on a Italian radio phone-in that Alessandra was returning to



Miss Mussolini for mayor?

the fold. Minutes later, Alessandra herself phoned into the show to confirm it. Talk is that she will now stand for election as mayor of Rome for the post-Fascists.

Trump card

NEW YORK property developer Donald Trump, seldom less than artful about polishing his reputation, is boasting of winning arguably the world's biggest gamble. Trump claims to have bet \$1 million on Evander Holyfield to win his recent world boxing heavyweight championship bout against Mike Tyson. Sure enough, Holyfield came home, on odds (says Trump) of 20-1, leaving "The Donald" with a \$20 million win. "I have to admit, I was surprised when Holyfield won," said Trump at a New York party last week. He claims to have made the bet in Nevada, but the losing bookie has yet to be found.

Steep bank

BASE CAMP on Sir Ranulph Fiennes's polar trek with his 500lb sled, and they are thankful they have not yet encountered difficulties with crevasses. Showing off last October before he set off, the



Fiennes so far

bullet-headed former SAS officer gave a demonstration of how to escape from a crevasse. He attempted to scale the 300ft former Barclays Tower in the City of London, his sled dangling beneath.

Just 15ft from the ground, Sir Ranulph came unstuck. Tangled in his ropes, he was trussed up like a Christmas turkey, unable to move up or down. The window-clearing which was lowered to rescue him: "I'm an explorer, not a climber," he said huffily.

P.H.S





## DANGEROUS EXPANSION

Why early enlargement could fatally weaken the Nato alliance

The second Clinton Administration's most awkward and important strategic task will be the construction of a stable and durable post-Cold War settlement in Europe. This will require a hard-headed American look at the policy of extending Nato into Central Europe, for which the alliance's foreign ministers are expected to set a negotiating timetable when they meet tomorrow.

When they embarked on this path, Western governments may sincerely have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Instead they refer to Nato's "obligation to accept the new democracies", or talk about guarding against a new security vacuum; or privately, say simply that for the West to back off now would send "the wrong message to Russia".

The first two arguments are disingenuous, since the West intends to leave democratic states in the Baltics and Balkans — precisely those most vulnerable to a security vacuum — on the other side of Europe's new dividing line. The third cannot conceivably justify heading into a foreseeable confrontation with Russia that would jeopardise arms control agreements and bolster revanchist anti-Western nationalism. That could prove to be the last great geostrategic blunder of this dreadful century.

If the West is genuinely to enhance European security, three historical precedents provide guidance — the peace settlements of 1815 and 1919; and the handling of Germany after 1945. The lesson they teach is that when, as with France after 1815 and Germany after 1945, vanquished but potentially formidable aggressors are folded into new political structures, the reward is durable peace. The penal strictures of the Treaty of Versailles, by contrast, fed resentments that assisted the rise of Nazi dictatorship. With the most honourable and indeed peaceful of intentions, the West is busy breeding in contemporary Russia much the same sense of outraged national

pride and insecurity that warped German politics in the interwar years.

If enlargement also lowers Nato's credibility as a military alliance, it will have created the worst of all worlds. That is likely, for two reasons. The first is that if Nato meets its goal of admitting new members by its 50th anniversary in 1999, or does so soon after, their armed forces will not be adequately trained or equipped to participate reliably in Nato's integrated military structure. For some years, they will be second-class members, and seen to be such since Nato plans to station no alliance forces on the territory of the new members.

The second could be called the "no war for Maribor" problem. Nato parliaments must ratify any enlargement treaty. When Nato was founded, the US Senate was persuaded only with great difficulty to underwrite the core Article 5 guarantee that an attack on one member is an attack on all. Now the US Senate may well refuse to accept the major new security commitment of extending Article 5 protection from Western Europe to countries such as Slovakia or Slovenia.

If that happened, the whole of Nato would be gravely weakened. Yet so conscious are Western European governments of their debts of honour, particularly to Poland and the Czech Republic, that none of them is prepared to apply the brakes. America alone could do so — by insisting that Nato enlargement should be an outgrowth of the expansion of the European Union. That would buy time to work out ways of meeting Mr Clinton's pledge to include Russia in "a security circle for all of Europe". It would force the Europeans to face the double standards they have applied with respect to the continent's new democracies.

The start of a new term gives Mr Clinton his window of opportunity. He may not yet be persuaded of the geopolitical risks of enlargement; but this most political of Presidents is not the man to court the risk of an historic defeat at the hands of the US Senate. That should concentrate his mind.

## QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Major spoke well but solved nothing

Rising, as ever, to the challenge of a party crisis, John Major was confident and relaxed in his BBC interview yesterday. The Prime Minister's answers, however, are unlikely to satisfy the backbenchers and voters of all persuasions who reject the Government policy of remaining forever silent on the most important issue facing the country in the approaching general election.

The Prime Minister's statements remained full of familiar inconsistencies and evasions. On the one hand, Mr Major said, it would be quite wrong for Britain to state its opposition to the single currency, because if it did, this country would lose all influence over the design of economic and monetary union. Yet he was prepared to say, in advance of all negotiation, that he would not countenance ceding any power whatsoever to Brussels over Britain's borders, or immigration. The implication was that border controls and asylum policy is not open to negotiation, while control over the economy is. Does Mr Major seriously want to suggest that policy on rabid dogs and asylum-seekers is more important than who sets Britain's interest rates?

Because he is so reluctant to offend his Chancellor, the Prime Minister seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. To him, the choice facing Britain appears to be merely a matter of contingent economics. If he were to apply this approach to a common immigration policy, he would negotiate quite happily with other member states, wait to see what the result was, and decide whether or not Britain should support it once he had looked at such details as whether first cousins, or just spouses should be allowed to live in the EU.

The Prime Minister held out the vague hope of using the narrow economic grounds of the convergence criteria to try to stop the EMU project. That would be wholly

desirable, and justifiable, if he could show that the relevant economic figures were fudged. But what if they are not? What if only Germany and a few other fiscally responsible countries went ahead? Would Mr Major then gleefully sign Britain up for the single currency? The only answer he is willing to give is "trust me".

That would be easier to do if voters knew what the Prime Minister's instincts really were. How far will Mr Major go to stop further centralisation? How much more important for him is that Britain should remain "at the heart of Europe"? The electorate is growing increasingly sensitive to these distinctions. The Prime Minister has become a political stunt driver, sometimes a courageous one, but he is running out of road.

Mr Major reiterated yesterday the misleading argument that, if Britain stated in advance that it would not want take part in EMU, it would lose its right to negotiate and vote. This is simply untrue. Whether "in" or "out", each EU country retains its place at the table and its vote. Mr Major may be right to suggest that Britain would lose influence with other countries if it ruled itself out. But even this argument is diminishing in strength as it becomes clear that the attitudes of the "outs" will have a huge effect on the success or failure of the single currency.

We have in the past accepted that Mr Major's equivocal stance may be diplomatically helpful for a time. The question is still how long that equivocation can helpfully and realistically last. The Prime Minister claimed yesterday to be putting the national interest above the party interest. As the election approaches, the two will coincide. The nation will demand to know what he intends to do with the pound. The party will demand that he refuse to give it away. The one answer that he will no longer be able to offer is, "wait and see".

## HEROES WITH HERNIAS

The daring young outpatient on the flying trapeze

Among the many deserving objects of our sympathy this Christmas season, spare the briefest of thoughts for Matthew Kelly. Mr Kelly is billed to play Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome this year. With the Hippodrome's run hardly begun, Mr Kelly has already been singled out as a likely candidate for a new form of industrial injury: pantomime-hernia. The production company staging Birmingham's Mother Goose and 32 similar hiss-and-boos spectacles reckons that Mr Kelly has the most strenuous time of all its performers: 18 split-second costume changes in each performance — and he goes up in a balloon.

Apparently Mr Kelly is only one of a growing number of professional actors who are succumbing to this new middle-class epidemic, not to mention the many unknown victims among the volunteers who star in the local amateur productions of *Peter Pan* put on by the WI. Before we know where we are, the shop stewards of Equity will be demanding a special hernia allowance for the seven persons of restricted height who have to lug Snow White around the stage. If the hernia epidemic during the

intensive pantomime season is taken as a sign of a wider danger, the contagion may spread. Will the diva who is required to hurl herself over the battlements at the end of *Tosca* or the baritone singing *Rigoletto* who must carry his daughter in a sack demand extra insurance?

Pantomime creates jobs for actors like nothing else all year. If this year's script says that the cosmic fairy flies all the way round the auditorium over the audience's head, then that's what *Scorpio of Gladiators* will have to do. If he doesn't, there will be other resting celebrities ready to take his place.

If the injury rate makes casts difficult to assemble, a simple solution is to hand. Sports celebrities make second careers for themselves on television, so why should they not become panto stars? Alan Shearer as Dick Whittington, Ian Botham as Puss In Boots, the list of possibilities is endless. They are available, they are fit and they don't limp off to the doctor the first time anyone asks them to lift anything heavier than a handbag. By all accounts, Frank Bruno was a fine genie in *Aladdin* a few years back. Perhaps he was ahead of his time.

## 'Misconceptions' on joining EMU

From Sir Thomas Macpherson

Sir, You reported (Business, later editions, December 5) the speech made in London by M J-C. Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France. As a believer in the eventual necessity of a common currency, and in the virtual certainty that some countries will initiate it more or less on schedule, I listened with interest to the array of unchallengeable facts he quoted. There were two areas, however, where he appeared to share familiar misconceptions.

First, he claimed the unfortunately named euro marked "the sweeping away of the final barriers". Not true. There are many barriers to go first — in the investment and insurance markets, telecommunications, transport and energy, and many non-tariff barriers on physical goods. And certain member countries are still blatantly propping up non-competitive enterprises with state aids.

Secondly, he asserted without doubt that the euro would be a strong and stable currency. Increasingly doubtful. Several potential founder members will creep under the wire of the Maastricht criteria by one-off devices, which by definition cannot be repeated. At least one passes the tests through the large percentage of its GDP represented by EU subsidies — when they cease, it fails to qualify.

Finally, the common currency's future depends on the readiness of members to indulge in emergency fiscal transfers from the EU budget to which they contribute. This is only likely to work if there is agreement on a radical reform and reduction of the CAP. Certain members oppose this.

These are among the factors that may make the euro at least initially a vulnerable currency which has to be sustained by upward movement in interest rates.

Britain is right to await developments — but must be deeply involved in helping to establish the practical technicalities. We shall, in or out, be vitally interested in their workability.

Yours faithfully,  
TOMMY MACPHERSON,  
President, European Chambers of Commerce, 1992-93,  
1 Appold Street, EC2,  
December 5.

From Mr Rodney Leach

Sir, What exactly is it that we are waiting to see? If the euro promises to be as strong as the Bundesbank wishes, based on strict initial adherence to the Maastricht criteria and a tough stability pact, would we regard this as a plus or a minus? Alternatively, if Italy, Spain and Belgium are admitted, flexible fiscal policies are allowed and the euro becomes a softer currency, would that encourage or discourage us?

Presumably the Cabinet has views about what would influence its recommendation whether or not to join EMU. If so, these views should be stated, since they concern the single most important issue in British life. As it is, a policy of non-commitment without reference to questions of substance is open to two interpretations, both unwelcome — that it conceals some other policy or that there is in fact no policy at all.

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY LEACH,  
3 Lombard Street, EC3,  
December 3.

From Mr Andrew Reid

Sir, It is fallacious for hardcore Eurosceptics to claim that the Government's "wait and see" policy is out of step with the rest of the party.

I know that a significant number of Young Conservatives and Conservative Students, like the majority of the party's grassroots, endorse the Prime Minister's flexible approach to a single currency. Not to make a decision until one has all the facts in place seems eminently sensible and worthy of a responsible political party.

What is irresponsible, even masochistic, is for backbench MPs to call for the Chancellor's head. The most successful Chancellor in 20 years, who has overseen a remarkable transformation in Britain's economic fortunes, seems a peculiar choice for the chop.

In this pre-election period it would be better for those who represent Conservatives in Parliament to direct their firepower on the Labour Party. That is what true Conservatives want.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW REID,  
President, Young Conservative Group for Europe,  
21 Charlbert Court,  
Charlbert Street, NW8.

## Gregorian precedent

From Professor P. S. Atiyah

Sir, Mr Clarke does well to warn us against saying aloud from European reforms, only to have to join them later with more difficulty. But the precedents for this type of behaviour go back further than he has suggested.

When the Julian Calendar was reformed by Pope Gregory in 1582 Britain refused to have any part of it for nearly 200 years. This delay meant that when we finally did pass the Calendar Act of 1750, we were left with the most absurd fiscal year in the world, starting on April 6. Struggling with self-assessment, I could wish that Mr Clarke would move the beginning of the fiscal year to January 1 where it more sensibly belongs.

Yours faithfully,  
P. S. ATIYAH,  
75 Main Road, Long Harborough,  
Wimsey, Oxfordshire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Edward VIII: folly or treason of a monarch in exile?

From Mr Michael Ryan

Sir, Despite the damning wave of new releases from the Public Record Office confirming in extraordinary detail the truth of Channel 4's two programmes on Edward VIII, (report, December 4), Mr Philip Ziegler still believes the former King was "a fool, but no traitor" ("Nothing to be done with the playboy Duke", December 4).

The evidence that Edward was a traitor turns on his actions. The programmes can speak for themselves, but let me cite a few examples of his deeds, not just his pro-Nazi opinions. In the winter of 1940, as a military liaison officer in France, Edward revealed winningly or unwittingly to the Nazis details of the Allied battle plans. Hitler later changed his plan of attack for the invasion of France, choosing the route through the Ardennes.

Edward's extraordinary prevarications in Spain and Portugal show that he actively encouraged the Nazi plot to return him to the throne. If he was a patriot, why did he not make a public pronouncement dissociating himself from Hitler's blandishments?

As Governor of the Bahamas, Edward not only expressed pro-Hitler sentiments to the American journalist Fulton Oursler, but persuaded him to visit President Roosevelt to plead his case. The purpose of the mission was to keep America out of the war, and to

strike a deal with Hitler.

Edward expected that "peace" would lead to a popular revolt in Britain, and he would be returned again as King. Thus, at a time when his fellow countrymen stood alone, the Duke was running his own pro-Hitler foreign policy from Government House. Where does "folly" end, and "treason" begin?

The release 40 years early of the PRO papers is to be welcomed. May we now, in this new spirit of glasnost, have access to the royal archives?

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL RYAN,  
(Producer, *Edward VIII: the Traitor King*),  
Hart Ryan Productions Ltd,  
84 Long Lane, SE1,  
December 5.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, In justice to the Duke of Windsor's name, it must be pointed out that the chances of an "unnamed source" with contacts in German-occupied Czechoslovakia knowing in 1940 of German contacts with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor other than those published in the 1950s are slim.

MI6's prewar network in Germany had been largely wiped out by the progressive loss of its stations in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and The Netherlands

between 1938 and May 1940. Czech Intelligence (and Polish) provided some alternative until our stations in Stockholm, Berne and Ankara were able to build new networks in Germany; but it appears to have been seized on a view of Hitler's dependence on the German military which we now know to have been completely wrong.

Czech political information out of Germany at best represented what its sources thought. The report that the Germans were offering the Duchess the restoration of her husband as a German puppet is, in a word, diplomatic title-tattle from the fringes of the German diplomatic service, if indeed it is nothing more sinister.

Of course, one ringing declaration by the Duke of his faith in his fellow countrymen and in ultimate British victory would have destroyed all the rumours and expectations. The Duke never felt any compulsion so to identify himself with the sentiments of his fellow countrymen. He preferred to play the role of King Zog of Albania, a monarch in exile without a government to support him.

Yours faithfully,  
D. CAMERON WATT,  
The London School of Economics and Science,  
Department of International History,  
Houghton Street, WC2,  
December 4.

## Gibraltar's sovereignty

From Dr Joseph Garcia, Leader of the Gibraltar National Party

Sir, Your editorial today, "A civilian in the Convent", is correct in assuming that the choice of Sir Richard Luce as our first civilian Governor is a cause for anxiety in Gibraltar, as is the manner in which the appointment has been executed. The fait accompli, without any consultation with the locally elected Government of Gibraltar, smacks of colonialism and disrespect for the wishes of the Gibraltarians.

This would have been a welcome change from a military man had it come as part of a wider package of constitutional reform. The Rock's political structure dates back to 1969 and is in sore need of updating, predating as it does both Britain and Gibraltar's entry into Europe in 1973.

Sir Richard's own track-record in relation to the Falkland Islands and Hong Kong will only serve to send the wrong signals to Spain. It is regrettable indeed that such an historic

change, breaking with nearly 300 years of tradition, should have come about in this dictatorial manner.

Yours faithfully,  
J. GARCIA,  
Leader, Gibraltar National Party,  
PO Box 225,  
93 Irish Town, Gibraltar,  
December 4.

From Mr James Nation

Sir, You say that "Gibraltar's sovereignty is not and must not be negotiable over the heads of the Gibraltarians themselves". Why ever not? We did it to Hong Kong over the heads of Hong Kongers, so what is to stop us doing the same to Gibraltarians?

I have lived in both colonies and urge my Gibraltarian friends to watch these slippery Brits very carefully; my Hong Kong friends will tell you that they are not to be trusted.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES NATION,  
117 Upper Brook Street,  
Westchester, Hampshire,  
December 5.

## Music in church

From Mrs Christine Osborne and Mr Ted Salmon

Sir, "Children in church are now a rarity," claims Roger Scruton ("Silent night of our hymns", November 30; letters, December 7). May we, through the courtesy of your columns, invite him to St Barnabas, Dulwich.

We have a choir of 67 which includes 35 children and seven teenagers. One of our choristers was Choirboy of the Year recently and several have gone to choir schools or gained choral scholarships to their universities. The rest of the congregation pulsates with children: we have 170 families registered.

Our choirmaster and organist leads us in choral worship with ancient and modern hymns from a variety of sources which are sung enthusiastically by

all ages. Our children certainly do not "stand in awkward and undignified silence". All aspects of worship draw on the deep tradition of Anglicanism while using contemporary media.

Ten weeks ago we moved into the newest church in the United Kingdom. Our choir are robed in royal blue and scarlet, our pipe organ is being built and will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. Our children have new accommodation for their teaching groups.

We may appear to be blowing our own trumpet. We would rather we all praised God with enthusiasm and reverence.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINE OSBORNE,  
TED SALMON (Churchwardens),  
St Barnabas Church,  
Calton Avenue, SE21,  
December 7.

## Exeter politics

From Mr Stephen Pettitt

Sir, Dr Adrian Rogers, Conservative prospective candidate for Exeter (letter, December 4; see also letters, December 7), cites the wisdom of the Judeo-Christian culture (whose condemnation is in any case debatable) as one reason for his own condemnation of homosexual practices.

If Dr Rogers is so strongly convinced of the rightness of Judeo-Christian thought, he must believe both in a vengeful God and in the tenet of not judging, lest he himself be judged. So why doesn't he just stay mum, secure in the knowledge that God will make His own decision and banish people like me to the eternal flames come the final reckoning?

Yours sincerely,  
STEPHEN PETTITT,  
39 Darwin Road, WS.

From the Chair of the Exeter University Debating Society

Sir, Dr Rogers's claim that it is the Exeter Labour Party that has stimulated this debate is misleading. The Labour candidate for Exeter, Mr Ben Bradshaw, declined to debate this issue before the Exeter University Debating Society and has insisted that it is more than a one-issue campaigner. Dr Rogers, however, did speak and in so doing proceeded to score political points by referring to Mr Bradshaw's absence.

Attempts by the Exeter University Debating Society to remove the debate from a party political level were vetoed by Dr Rogers's refusal to share the platform with Mr David Allen, chairman of the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM D. S. GEE,  
Chair, Exeter University Debating Society,  
Devonshire House, Exeter, Devon,  
December 4.

## Workplace bullying

From Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North (Labour)

Sir, I am glad to see justice has been done ("Clerk wins damages over bullying" later editions, December 3) over one of the increasing number of assaults at work which, I understand, have doubled in the period 1981-91.

I hope that cases such as the bullying incident you covered will increase awareness of the problem sufficiently for positive action to be taken by employers. At the very least, violence or bullying must be properly monitored and counselling for victims provided. In the longer term we must ensure that prosecution and sentencing for violence or victimisation at work is a real deterrent.

Yours sincerely,  
G. W. ALLEN,  
Shadow Environment Minister  
(Health and Safety),  
House of Commons,  
December 4.

## Writers cramped

From Ms Janet Menzies

Sir, Your column headed *The Listener* (Media and Marketing, December 4) implies that *Daily Express* Editor Richard Addis's Christmas drinks party for his staff being held in the canteen is a step down. Under the previous management such festivities always took place in the corridor outside the Editor's office.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET MENZIES, (Women's Editor),  
*The Daily Express*, 1991-93,  
Brambledown,  
The Avenue, Westerham, Kent,  
December 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## Lords reform

From Professor Rodney Brazier

Sir, The Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is wrong to assume that a Labour government would be able to flood the House of Lords quickly with life peers to overcome resistance to Labour's constitutional legislation (report and article, December 5).

New peers cannot vote until they have been introduced into the House, which is master of its own procedures. Under these procedures, usually not more than two introductions take place on any day. The Conservative majority of peers is unlikely to allow changes to standing orders so as to hasten the demise of hereditary peers. Indeed, in theory it could vote to slow down the rate of introductions.

The Parliament Acts alone provide the mechanism accepted by both Houses as governing any irreconcilable disputes between them over legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY BRAZIER,  
(Professor of Constitutional Law),  
The University of Manchester,  
Faculty of Law,  
Mansfield Cooper Building,  
Oxford Road, Manchester,  
December 6.

From Lord Wigoder, QC

Sir, You report today that prominent members of the Labour Party are threatening that a Labour government would create many hundreds of life peers in order to ensure the passage of its proposed reform of the House of Lords.

This it has no power to do. All it can do is to threaten to advise the Queen to make such appointments — a matter entirely for the Royal Prerogative.

Whether by modern constitutional practice the monarch is obliged to act upon a Prime Minister's request which would materially change the composition of one of the Houses of Parliament — unless he has the specific mandate of the electorate following a general election in which the proposal was clearly the principal issue, or possibly a referendum — must be open to serious doubt.

Yours sincerely,  
WIGODER,  
House of Lords,  
December 5.

## What's in a name?

From Mr Tim Bullamore

Sir, I was both flattered and embarrassed to be greeted by a French musician I had been assigned to meet at Heathrow airport with the words: "Ah, you must be Monsieur Belle-Amour" (letters, November 14, 21, 26, 30, December 7).

Yours humbly,  
TIM BULLAMORE,  
25 Brock Street, Bath,  
December 7.

From Mr William Warre

Sir, A fellow member of the Institute of Masters of Wine, Michael Peace, once invited me to join him in partnership.

This never happened, so saving Tolstoy from turning in his grave.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM WARRE,  
41 Ridgway Place, SW19,  
December 7.

From Mr Graham Roberts

Sir, A few years ago, at a local health authority summer garden party, I introduced Mr Frank Carnall, OBE, to a friend of mine as Mr Knowledge. Word association has its perils.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM ROBERTS,  
Merrie Meade,  
24 Allanson Road,  
Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Conwy,  
December 5.







OBITUARIES

SIR BASIL NIELD

Sir Basil Nield, CBE, Justice of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1960-78, and MP for Chester 1940-56, died on December 4 aged 93. He was born on May 7, 1903.

The last former Conservative MP to be raised to the High Court bench, and the only such judge to have presided at all the 61 historic assize towns in England and Wales before the assize system was abolished in 1972, Basil Nield had a long and distinguished life of service to the law, politics, the Church and the Army.

He entered the chambers in Liverpool of Egerton Stuart Brown and joined the Northern Circuit, where it quickly became obvious that he was destined for success at the Bar. His advocacy was marked by an unflinching courtesy, and he soon became a popular choice among the local solicitors and a well-liked member of the circuit, in which he held such offices as Junior, Messenger and Crier. The latter two are connected with certain time-honoured rituals in the circuit Bar mess; the posts have existed since James Boswell held them in the 18th century. Boswell also served as Junior, bearing the same responsibility that Nield did for keeping the circuit's records.

His practice grew rapidly and later he entered the chambers in Liverpool of David Maxwell Fyfe, later as Lord Kilmuir to become a Tory Lord Chancellor. He and his wife Sylvia became Nield's closest friends. At the age of 42 in 1945 he made a successful application for silk, after which there began to open up



in front of him those appointments and privileges which usually come to a leader who is a sound and accurate advocate with a meticulous regard for the ethical rules of his profession.

He was elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple in 1952, was Recorder of Salford, 1948-56, then Recorder and first permanent judge of the Crown Court of Manchester, 1956-60.

In 1940 he became the Conservative Member of Parliament for Chester, and represented that constituency for 16 unbroken years, during which time he sponsored as a Private Member's Bill the Adoption of Children Act, 1949. He was honorary parliamentary chairman of the Docks and Harbour Authorities Association, a member of the Home Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Treatment of Offenders, a member of the Magistrates' Rules Committee, and vice-president of the National Chamber of Trade and the Graduate Teachers' Association.

In 1938, anticipating as others did the outbreak of war, he had joined the Officers Emergency Reserve, being commissioned into a captain's rank in 1940. In 1941 he served as a major at GHQ MEF, later being on the HQ staffs of East

Africa Force, Abyssinia, Palestine and Syria.

In 1942 he was president of the Palestine Military Courts in Jerusalem, and in 1943 served on HQ staffs in Persia and Iraq as a lieutenant-colonel. He was mentioned in dispatches when serving as Deputy Judge Advocate-General to Middle Eastern Forces. At the time of D-Day, and throughout the advance through France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, he was on the HQ staff of the Second Army.

Halfway through his time on the High Court bench he wrote an entertaining book, *Farewell to the Assizes* (1972) in which he described the changes effected by the Courts Act 1971 in the system of trial by the High Court at Assizes which had existed since the Assize of Clarendon in 1166. The book, he declared in a graceful dedication to her, was written at the instigation of his sister Beryl. (Between brother and sister, there was, as all their friends realised, an unusually close affinity.)

He was extremely proud of his distinction in having sat in all the assize towns, and liked to recount how it had taken him ten years to get to Bury St Edmunds and complete his "full house".

A keen Anglican, he was a member of the Church Assembly Legal Board (1952-56), of the special committee under the Reorganisation Areas measure for the Province of York, and Chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool, 1948-56.

Nield became a JP of the County Palatine of Lancaster in 1956, DL for the County of Chester in 1962, and Freeman of the City of London in 1963. He was appointed MBE (m) in 1943 and advanced to CBE in 1956. But perhaps the mark of recognition which gave him the greatest delight was when he became Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1977.

His last years were spent at the King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers at Osborne House in the Isle of Wight. He was unmarried.

EDDIE HARRIS

Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist and composer, died in Los Angeles on November 5 aged 60. He was born in Chicago on October 20, 1936.



COMMERCIAL success came early to Eddie Harris, when at the age of 25, within a few months of his release from military service, he produced an album based on the theme from Otto Preminger's film *Exodus*. The disc, *Exodus Into Jazz*, sold more than two million copies, and in its wake Harris produced six further albums, paving the way to a successful recording contract with Atlantic during the 1960s and 1970s. This cemented his position in the public imagination as a pure-toned jazz saxophonist who pioneered the electrification of his instrument and successfully created a style of jazz-funk that has since been widely imitated.

Yet Harris had too restless a creative imagination and too inventive a personality to settle for a single style of music. He maintained parallel careers as a conventional tenor saxophonist (touring until recently with a quartet and playing small jazz clubs); as the inventor of a range of hybrid electronic and acoustic instruments; and as a composer of distinction.

To modern ears, his pioneering efforts with the Variatone (a device which processed the sound of the saxophone and allowed Harris to play in octaves with himself) are laughably unsophisticated. But in the late 1960s he was at the cutting edge of technology, and pieces like his *Listen Here* from *The Electrifying Eddie Harris* album, recorded in 1967, reveal a beautifully crafted electric sax solo over a gentle but persistent funk rhythm. His other experiments were more eccentric and included an electronic rhythm box and various brass instruments with reed mouthpieces (and vice versa), none of which caught on.

Harris grew up in Chicago, where he attended the Du

Sable High School, and led his own groups from an early age. Herbie Hancock, four years younger than Harris and still at high school, played in one of these. After gaining experience with the saxophonist Gene Ammons and in a US Army orchestra, Harris returned to Chicago to work as a professional musician.

He composed much that he recorded, and *Freedom Jazz Dance* from a record called *In the Sound* was orchestrated by Gil Evans for a Californian big band in 1966. Later the same year, as a result, Evans's long-term associate Miles Davis recorded the piece with his quintet for the *Miles Smiles* album, establishing Harris as the composer of one of the most enduring standards in modern jazz.

Jazz purists derided Harris for his electronic experiments and for a commercially successful partnership with the pianist Les McCann, which gave him his second million-seller in 1969. Despite his long-term affiliations with creative Chicago musicians such as Muihal Richard Abrams, Harris was criticised for having a "white" tone. "I play in

tune and hit my notes right on the head and phrase them properly. Is that what you call white?" he once protested.

His live performances and recordings were so varied that critics seldom agreed on his virtues, although all agreed that he had virtues. When he gave up his funk band because "I was losing all my jazz fans from the Sixties", Harris discovered that he had lost both of his audiences. "I began to see people following my footsteps," he wrote. "It took Miles Davis till 1980 to go funk, meanwhile I'm back straight ahead, starring."

Through hard work and a series of commendable latter-day albums, Harris staved off starvation. London audiences were treated to a visit from him in 1994 when he was reunited with Les McCann. Harris defended his idiosyncratic career, recalling that he had built it on the advice of Billie Holiday whom he knew while she was in decline: "No matter how good you sound, somebody's going to dislike you. No matter how bad you sound, somebody's going to like it. It's what you like that counts."

EDMUND CASWELL

Edmund Caswell, artist, died of cancer, aged 58. He was born on August 12, 1938.

EDMUND CASWELL could have left no more fitting memorial than the 72ft Peter Pan mural at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Nothing he painted reflected more his warmth and ebullience. He was in his forties when he trained at Hornsey Art School as a painter, and in his final year began the mural that influenced so much of his work. Seven years later, after long building delays, he worked through the night for months to complete it in time to celebrate the passing of the Bill in 1968 which restored the Peter Pan royalties to the hospital for ever.

He was ever the perfectionist, never accepting that he

had finished a work to his satisfaction, always ready to return to it for a fresh look. It was characteristic of him that he returned to Great Ormond Street three years ago and spent seven weeks freshening the colours of his mural in readiness for the reopening of the hospital by the Princess of Wales.

Caswell, great grandson of a Scottish doctor who went to India in the last century, spent his first seven years in Bangalore before the family came to England. At 13 he received a scholarship to Coventry School of Art, but his love of horses took him to agricultural college in Oxford, a degree in animal husbandry and an early career in farming, before he finally studied fine arts.

From 1950, when his wife Henry King organised the celebrations marking Dundee's 800th anniversary, he

lived and worked in Scotland, devoting much of the last two years to Robert Burns. In January this year his 13 pictures based on Tam o' Shanter were exhibited at the Houses of Parliament and one of his drawings was featured in a Burns exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

His Victorian-style picture book on Peter Pan was launched at Kilmuir, J.M. Barrie's birthplace. It has sold more than 80,000 copies and has been translated into five languages. The paintings which illustrated the book were shown at the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh before being presented to Kilmuir two years ago.

Caswell's last painting was of Christ and Mary Magdalene for St Mary Magdalene's Church in Dundee. He is survived by his wife and her four children.



Georges Duby, French historian, died at his home in Aix-en-Provence on December 2 aged 77. He was born in Paris on October 7, 1919.

"WHAT is historical discourse if not the expression of the historian's personal reaction when confronted with the scattered vestiges of his emotion, or rather his dream? For, inevitably, he must dream. Be rigorous, but dream."

Those far from dry-as-dust words, delivered in an interview with *Le Monde* nearly four years ago, may help to explain the remarkable popularity, both in France and beyond, of the great medievalist Georges Duby. Although there were many contrasts between them — not least in the fields they covered — he may perhaps be compared to A.J.P. Taylor in his ability to inspire enthusiasm for history in the non-specialist.

Duby nevertheless was the product of his own background. He was an eminent, if not typical, upholder of a highly influential French tradition which sought to extend the scope of historical analysis from politics and great events to social structures and mentalities. "Social history," he wrote, "is the whole of history." But he also had a unique gift for inhabiting and making real the texture of the periods he evoked.

That talent for vivid evocation, together with a shrewd understanding of modern methods of publicity, helped to give his work unusually broad appeal. A fine and prolific writer, in France he did more than almost anyone else to stimulate popular interest in history. He was a familiar

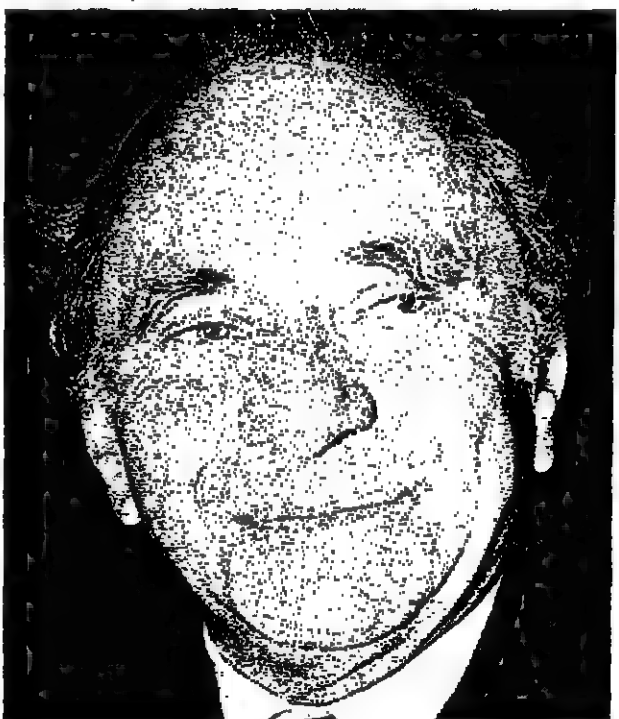
figure on radio and television, and his books — far-ranging and accomplished works of scholarship though they are — were as likely to be found on coffee tables as on library shelves. Translations carried his reputation far beyond France.

Georges Michel Claude Duby was born in Paris, the son of a craftsman who specialised in cleaning and dyeing feathers. He spent his school years in Macon, and preferred the nearby university of Lyons to the highly regarded institutions of the capital. It was as a student there that he switched from geography to history and discovered the work of Lucien Febvre, Marc Bloch and the other historians grouped around the *Journal d'histoire*.

Both his own training and the ideas of the *Annales* informed his view that "a society, like a landscape, is a system whose structure and development is determined by a multiplicity of factors, [and] that the relations between these factors are not those of cause and effect but of correlations and interference." He wanted, he said, to put himself "inside the skin of the men and women of the Middle Ages".

In 1949 he had completed his doctoral thesis on medieval society in southern Burgundy and was made a junior fellow at Lyons. In 1951, after a brief professorship in Besancon, he moved on to the University of Aix-en-Provence. He would continue to live near by for the rest of his life, even after taking up the chair of history at the Collège de France in Paris from 1970 to 1992, where his lectures drew large and often fashionable crowds.

GEORGES DUBY



Among his many French and international honours, he was elected to the Académie Française in June 1987, becoming its first historian member since Fernand Braudel, and was appointed a Commander of the Legion of Honour. He was an associate member of the British Academy.

After an erudite and wide-ranging study of *Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West* (Paris, 1962; London 1968), Duby moved on to a three-volume history of medieval art which included what remains one of his best-known books, *L'Europe des cathédrales*. This was to grow into *Le Temps des cathédrales* (The Age of the Cathedrals: Art and Society 980-1420, 1976), which was adapted for French television with great success.

Art had always been one of Duby's chief interests. A painter himself (and a good friend of the artist Pierre Soulages), he excelled at drawing out the historical implications of form. He was also one of the first historians to take a close interest in the cultural possibilities of the mass media, and was the chairman of France's new "cultural" channel, La Sept (now Arte), in the late 1980s.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

Art had always been one of Duby's chief interests. A painter himself (and a good friend of the artist Pierre Soulages), he excelled at drawing out the historical implications of form. He was also one of the first historians to take a close interest in the cultural possibilities of the mass media, and was the chairman of France's new "cultural" channel, La Sept (now Arte), in the late 1980s.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

and he eventually channelled those narrative skills into the study of precisely those famous "historic events" which he had once done so much to play down in favour of complex, long-term developments.

This change of approach resulted in what many French historians consider his finest book, *Le dimanche de Bouvines* (1973; translated into English as *The Legend of Bouvines*, 1990), an account — part narrative, part analysis — of the crucial battle in July 1214 that strengthened the French monarchy against the Holy Roman Empire.

In addition to his own copious production (some thirty books), Duby was also an active editor, working on histories of rural France, two histories of France (one with Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie), and a *History of Private Life*.

Another ambitious project, undertaken with Michelle Perrot, and with the encouragement of his wife Andrée, herself an historian, was the multivolume *Histoire des Femmes*. As Duby's fellow historian Jacques Le Goff observed, "there was something almost tragic for him in the silence of history about women, and the silence of women in history." His last books were attempts to conjure up the substance of these "elusive existences".

To that task, as ever, he brought the combination of rigour and sympathy, served by a fine prose style, that has inspired French commentators to couple his name with that of the great 19th-century historian Michelet.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1942, and by their son and two daughters.

Church news

Appointments  
The Rev Nigel Anstey, Team Vicar, St Francis and St Clare, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be Team Vicar, St Luke, Walthamstow (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Ian Beckwith, Curate (NSM), Wallingford; Team Ministry: to be also LNSM Training Officer for the Berkshire Archdeaconry (Oxford).  
Canon Christopher Bryant, Rector, Devises St John and St Mary; to be Master, St Nicholas Hospital, Salisbury (Salisbury).  
The Ven Michael Bucks, Chaplain of the Fleet and Director-General, Naval Chaplaincy Services; to be Team Rector, Shaston Team Ministry (Salisbury).  
The Rev Madeline Butman, Curate, Brentford; to be Vicar, St Saviour w St Mary, Cobbold Road (London).  
The Rev Derek Burden, Vicar, Wokingham St Sebastian; to be

Priest-in-charge, Wooburn (Oxford). The Rev Richard Capper, Vicar, St Faith's, Great Crosby and Area Dean of Bootle (Liverpool); to be Residentiary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield).  
The Rev Philip Clements, Rector, Swinford w Cathorpe, Shawell and Stanford; to be also Priest-in-charge, North w South Kilworth and Misterton (Leicester).  
The Rev Timothy Codling, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, North Shorebury; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Tilbury Docks (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Shaun Conlon, Assistant Curate, St Mary and St Margaret, Castle Bromwich (Birmingham); to be Assistant Curate, Hockliff (St Albans).  
The Rev Linda Currell, Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells (Rochester); to be Team Vicar, St Stephen's, Walthamstow, in the Team Ministry of St Mary w St Stephen, Walthamstow, and Chaplain to Walthamstow YMCA (Chelmsford).  
The Rev Julian Davey, formerly Priest-in-charge, The Winterbourne and Compton Valence; to be Team Vicar, Marshwood Vale Team Ministry (Salisbury).  
The Rev Sally Davies, Curate, St Paul's, East Molesey (Guildford); to be Senior Curate, Chalfont St Peter, w special responsibility for All Saints, Oval Way (Oxford).  
The Rev Victor Dickinson, Vicar, The Ascension, Kenton (Newcastle); to be Vicar, Ford and Ehal and Lowick and Kyloc w Ancroft, same diocese.  
The Rev Geoffrey Driver,

Vicar, St Paul's, Glasshoughton; to be full-time Hospital Chaplain for the Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust (Wakefield).  
The Rev Jonathan Foster, Chaplain, Chantilly St Peter, France (Europe); to be Vicar, Branksome St Clement (Salisbury).  
Canon Murray Haig, Team Rector, Cramlington; to be Priest-in-charge, Alnwick (Newcastle).  
The Right Rev Peter Hall, formerly Area Bishop of Woolwich (Southwark); to be Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Birmingham.  
The Rev Allister Heagerty, Chaplain to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; to be Team Vicar, Kingswood (Bristol).  
The Rev David Humphrey, Assistant Curate, Thundersley (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, Standon, St Albans (St Albans).

SAVOY THEATRE.

*The Gondoliers*, or *The King of Barataria*, the new opera by Mr Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, was received on Saturday night with such hearty and unanimous approbation as to make it easy to augur that it will be long before the next of the series is required. If a position among the best of the joint authors' productions be ultimately accorded to the new work, as will probably be the case, it will be due less to any remarkable originality or interest in the plot than to the dialogue, which is in Mr. Gilbert's very best style, and the bright and sparkling music, some of which is quite irresistible in its melodious gaiety, while all is, as usual, spontaneous, refined, and thoroughly characteristic of the composer.

The facts of the story appear to be as follows (we undertake their relation with extreme diffidence): The infant son of the King of Barataria, after being contracted in marriage to the daughter of a Castilian hidalgo, is "changed at

ON THIS DAY

December 9, 1889

This review occupied more than a column and a half with occasional extracts from the libretto, totalling more than 1,700 words, tightly printed.

nurse" for the son of his foster-mother, who at the time when the action of the piece takes place (1750) has become the wife of "a highly respectable and old-established brigand, who carries on an extensive practice in the mountains around Cordova." ... The author has constructed a libretto which even he has rarely surpassed in whimsical absurdity. Mr Gilbert is a privileged person, and none but the most capacious of critics will resent his allowing the Spanish Inquisitor, a functionary who rejoices in

the name of Don Alhambra del Bolero (Mr. W. H. Denny), to reside, to all appearances permanently, in the Ducal Palace at Venice, and there to receive the state visit of an impoverished nobleman, the Duke of Plaza-Toro (Mr. F. Wyatt), who arrives with his Duchess (Miss Brandram), their daughter Casilda (Miss Decima Moore), who will be recognized as Queen of Barataria as soon as the identity of that Monarch is established. The entry of these august personages in their pompous but shabby clothes, and the quarter they sing, start the hilarity of the piece, which never flags from that moment ... The two scenes are a marvel of stage adaptation, the first representing no less a space than the Piazzetta at Venice. The second, a very pretty scene of Moorish character, does not commit itself to any rash statements concerning the position of Barataria on the map. It is needless to say that with Sir Arthur Sullivan directing affairs the performance went without a hitch, and that the reception could not have been more cordial.



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**TODAY IN THE TIMES**

**REAL TROUBLE FOR ROBSON**  
Barcelona brought to earth in Madrid  
PAGE 31

**THE ICEMEN COMETH**  
Nottingham triumph  
PAGE 33

**HOMETOWN HERO**  
Becker proves too strong for all-comers  
PAGE 26

**HIT THE ROAD BRIAN**  
Lara faces the music in Sydney PAGE 27

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

UNITED LOSE TWO POINTS AS SCHMEICHEL LOSES HIS HEAD

## Dicks delivers great hammer blow

West Ham United ..... 2  
Manchester United ..... 2

By ROE HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE QUEST for the European Cup continues to be a considerable weight around Manchester United's neck, affecting their ability to concentrate on the FA Cup Premier League, to produce consistent performances that might threaten Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle United and, bless them, Wimbledon.

At Upton Park yesterday, they allowed West Ham United to embarrass them for imagination, movement and ideas. Yet, fortuitously — to use the word of admission from Alex Ferguson, the manager — United went two up and then, thinking the task was finished, they allowed West Ham to come back with two goals in 90 seconds, and force Schmeichel to save the game for United in the dying moments.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was relieved to have won a point. Ferguson was simply livid. He accepted his team's luck and described his side's performance, very accurately, as "very poor, very ragged, tired". However, when the United manager abruptly walked out of the press conference, I

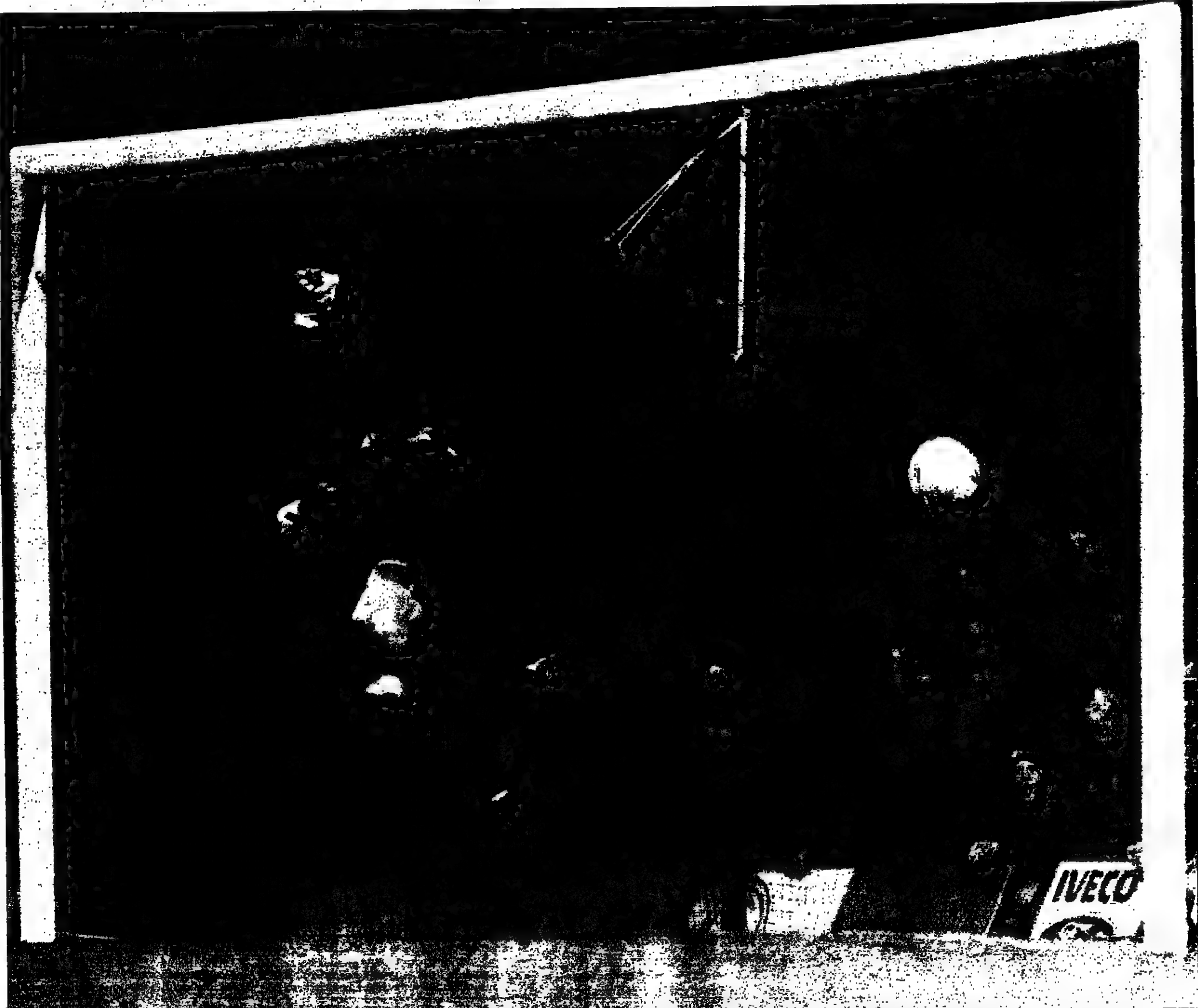
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	18	35
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	29	17	31
Liverpool	16	9	4	3	26	14	31
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	25	17	29
Man Utd	16	7	6	3	31	24	27
Chelsea	16	6	7	3	25	23	25

suspect his sensitive mood was as much to do with seeing that his reserves are thin, that Poborsky, purchased for more than £3 million, will probably never have the physical commitment — let us call it courage — to match his tricky feet.

It was just after the half-hour that the Czech Republic international, seeing Dicks, that whole-hearted West Ham captain, coming towards him, showed his colours. The yellow card had been issued for something as dubious as an involuntary handball earlier on, and when an international performer jumps out of the way at more than a yard distance from man and ball, one wonders about a disreputable charge.

Seriously, this game asked real questions of Manchester United's Premiership pedigree. If United had produced something of a waltz against Rapid Vienna in midweek, this was more of a clog-dance, and Ferguson was justified in suggesting that Beckham, though he was to score a mercurial goal, is showing signs of physical fatigue.

There are foreign elements in the English game who need, drastically, to prove their consistency and commitment. Dumitrescu is certainly one. Yet in the 22nd minute, he transcended the skill on offer and showed that United were there for the beating. He darted into the box, eluding Pallister and drove in a low shot that skimmed beyond the far post. When Dumitrescu approached from the left, his trickery brought a handball in the area from McClair. Peter Jones, the referee, generously concluded that it was ball-to-hand, and gave McClair a huge benefit of the



Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, fails to stop Dicks's fearsomely struck penalty that earned West Ham a point at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

doubt. In another way, Jones, was as lenient with Bilic. The Croatia defender, who possibly should not have started the game as he was unwell, fouled Giggs in the nineteenth minute, and committed a vicious late tackle on Beckham in the 31st. The card shown was yellow.

Not until the brink of half-time did United threaten and then Solskjaer was denied only by a reflex save from Miklosko. Solskjaer, United's leading goalscorer, had not scored away from Old Trafford since his transfer

from Norway. The 53rd minute changed that.

The anonymous Cantona suddenly showed his quality. Spotting that four West Ham defenders, in a line, were thinking of the offside trap, he hesitated for an instant and then produced a penetrating through ball. Solskjaer timed his run perfectly and, from 12 yards, drove the ball past Miklosko, who could only deflect its course into the net.

Dumitrescu retaliated by stepping past two United defenders, but again shot wide of the far post.

In the 75th minute, though, United surpassed what had gone before. Cantona, making his second glowing contribution, wheeled 180 degrees with the ball, bemusing Moncur. From him to Irwin, to Beckham, and back to Beckham, the ball travelled. Then England's young hope struck a shot from the edge of the penalty box, right-footed and with little back-lift, that caressed the inside of a post before nestling in the net.

All over? Redknapp and Ferguson agreed that it was but, in a

rousing reprisal, West Ham rescued the game. Raducioiu easily by-passed Johnsen, and gave Schmeichel not a ghost of a chance to prevent his right-foot shot from entering the far side of the goal. That was the 77th minute; by the 79th the game, more than deservedly, was squared. This time, Dumitrescu prompted the move with a pass down the inside-left channel. Hughes anticipated it and Schmeichel, reckless in the extreme, came out and flattened him. Schmeichel, inevitably, rallied against the penalty award; the

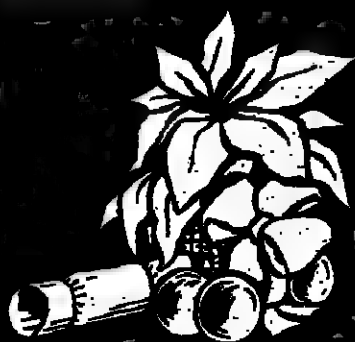
looks that Pallister gave him, the words with which Ferguson admitted where blame lay, condemned the goalkeeper's rashness. Up strode Dicks to give the ball the old West Ham 'ammer.

It was too much joy for 200 West Ham supporters to contain. They spilled, momentarily, onto the pitch, an invasion that did not come to much once Dicks had used his renowned eloquence to dispel them. On with the finale and Schmeichel saved dramatically from Hughes and from Dumitrescu.

"An absolute giveaway," Ferguson moaned afterwards. "We just can't keep on giving goals like that away."

WEST HAM (4-4-1-1): L. Miklosko — M. Bowen, S. Bialk (sub S. Forth, 71min), M. Rapier, J. Dicks — M. Hughes, J. Moncur, I. Burtup, K. Rowland (sub F. Raducioiu, 65) — I. Dumitrescu — I. Dowie.  
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel — R. Johnson, D. May, G. Pallister, D. Irwin — R. Forster, sub P. Neville, 55), D. Beckham, R. L. Z. C. — R. Gigg — E. Cantona — O. G. Solskjaer. Referee: P. Jones.

Liverpool suffer, page 28  
Forceful Ferguson, page 29  
Results and tables, page 30  
Robson under threat, page 31



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# Castle besieged by Fleming's conflicting opinions

For one man, the rise and rise of Tim Henman was beginning to get just a little bit annoying. That man was Andrew Castle, anchorman of BSkyB's tennis coverage and already destined to be a far better broadcaster than he was a tennis player. That is he will be — just as soon as he stops torturing himself with dreams of what might have been.

For once on Thursday afternoon, after Henman had dispatched MaliVai Washington, Castle and his studio guest, Peter Fleming, were in agreement — British men's tennis was improving. Why had it taken so long, Castle moaned? "What's so annoying is that there are a lot of people whose talent was wasted by the mediocre help they received," Fleming was all wide-eyed innocence. "Really Andrew — and who might they be?"

All week Castle and Fleming had been going at it like Ivanisevic and Kafelnikov in the less-watched semi-final on Saturday. Were they being serious or was it all just a bit of fun at our expense? Either way it made excellent television — Castle and Fleming that is. Both are good-looking and both are impressively articulate on screen, but there the similarities end. Apart from the renaissance of British tennis, they agree about nothing.

"Well, well, well," Castle enthused after the win on Thursday — we really do have something to cheer about. Don't we, Peter? "I don't agree, Andrew. That was just another run-of-the-mill match for Tim. I hope people don't make too much of it because that's who Tim Henman has become now." All those late nights with Sue Barker (please, Wimbledon highlights only)



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

paid off as he turned to face the camera for maximum effect. "So just snap out of it. The sooner everyone realises that this guy's a player... the better." Just for a second the unflappable Castle looked a trifle flapped. Studio guests are not supposed to behave like that.

It was even worse on Saturday, after Henman had succumbed to Boris Becker and the Union Jack-waving partnership of Gerald Williams and Bill Threlfall had handed back to the studio. Castle began

again. "I think today we have discovered the limitations of Tim's game!" Fleming did not agree. "I think Tim's game was perfectly fine." He thought it was Henman's mind that needed to take a step up. Castle tried yet again. "But there's a gulf in class isn't there?" Fleming did not agree with the word "gulf". Well, what about Henman's ground strokes. Castle railed, surely they were no match for Becker's? Wrong again. "In a year's time everyone will be saying that Tim Henman's

ground strokes are better than Boris Becker's." In desperation, Castle turned to metaphor. "Henman was a whipper to Becker's rotweiler, wasn't he?"

This time Fleming's pregnant pause was too much. "Does it pain you so very much," Castle wailed, "ever to agree with me?" Fleming paused, gave it some thought and delivered his deadpan answer. "Yes, it does actually." Game and certainly first set to the American, but I look forward to battle being rejoined the next time Sky has some decent tennis to show. I fear, however, we may have to wait a while to beat a week that began with extended live coverage of the Davis Cup final and ended — at least for most people — with a British player making it to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

In the commentary box, Williams

and Threlfall lent their old BBC authority to proceedings, with Williams's tendency to over-sentimentalise (remember Wimbledon before Sue Barker) minimised by the simple expedient of keeping him off-screen. Some superb pictures were provided by ISPR, the rights holder and host broadcaster. Although its camera operators' pursuit of a pretty face was occasionally distracting (the Munich crowd spend most of the time staring upwards trying to catch themselves on monitors), the super-slow motion replays of line calls and even foot faults were extraordinarily precise. The BBC already has the technology to provide similar facilities for its Wimbledon coverage. All that is required is the consent of the All England Club and flying chalk could be a thing of the past. I'm serious.

## TENNIS: BUOYANT GERMAN SECURES GRAND SLAM CUP

# Becker serves notice of return to form

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

THE year has ended much too early for Boris Becker. Yesterday he rounded off his season with a near-perfect display of tennis to beat Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Having reached such a peak, he now has nowhere to go until next month, when the new season starts and he goes to defend his Australian Open title.

It has been a frustrating 12 months for Becker. Just when he had returned to the type of form that lifted him to the No 1 spot in the world rankings, he picked up a virus infection that kept him out for three months. He had to miss the French Open with a torn thigh muscle and then, fit again in time for Queen's, he injured his wrist during Wimbledon and had to miss the next 2½ months. Now aged 29, time is running out for Becker if he is to get his wish and win one more Wimbledon title.

With Becker, anything is possible once he puts his mind to it. Facing the fiercest service on the men's circuit, he gave Ivanisevic a taste of his own medicine. He conceded just 15 points on his own service and seven of those were gifts in the form of double faults. Never did Ivanisevic have a chance to threaten Becker and in return Becker was reading Ivanisevic's every move.

The day before Ivanisevic had served 42 aces in his five-set defeat

of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, but by Sunday the well was all but dry. Managing only a paltry 12 thunderbolts, he ran out of ideas as Becker brushed him aside. "Usually when I have lost to him before, and lost easily, I at least had chances to break but not today," he said.

With two such big servers facing each other on a fast indoor court, rallies are at a premium: serve, return and maybe a volley is about all about the crowd is going to get. In all departments, Becker was the

better player and on the odd occasion when some tennis did break out, Becker tended to win from the baseline, too. Before the end of the first set Ivanisevic was beginning to grumble and mutter and by the time he reached the third set he knew he was well beaten.

Still, the week had not been too bad an experience for Ivanisevic. He was planning to pull out of the tournament on Monday. Feeling ill, he went looking for the tournament referee to withdraw but never found him. A good night's sleep later, he thought he might give it a go and

ended up in the final. The \$812,500 (about £50,000) he won as runner-up came as an unexpected bonus.

With that in mind, he was not too upset by the defeat. Becker at his peak is a frightening prospect for anyone. "I think he is playing his best tennis ever," Ivanisevic said. "In my opinion he is faster, he's moving better and he's playing much better. He realised that if he wants to stay at the top he has to go one step better and he did it. He's playing unbelievable tennis."

With the rest of the top players complaining that their year is too long, that they are too tired, Becker faces a different problem as he tries to maintain his fitness and form while the rest of the world puts its feet up for Christmas. He admits that it is a lot easier to contemplate the new year when he is playing so well, but having come so far and with the goal of another grand slam so important to him, a festive season with the family Becker could involve a lot of hard work.

"You have to improve each year, almost each month, because the competition is learning," he said. "Players are going to read my game and I have to find new ways to surprise them. I will go to Australia as the defending champion and everyone is going to hunt me. But I've managed before to step up when the pressure was the most — hopefully I can do it again."



Becker raises his arms to acknowledge the crowd after beating Ivanisevic in Munich yesterday

## Henman savours valuable reward

Alix Ramsay believes Britain's No 1 player is richer for experience of defeat by Becker

THE last few days in Germany have been a lucrative time for Tim Henman. On Saturday, he earned another \$431,250 (about £266,000) to add to his already bulging bank account by losing to Boris Becker 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semi-final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Although it took his annual earnings to a healthy \$853,247, the 1hr 50min he spent on court with Becker gave him something more valuable than any pay cheque, the knowledge that he can hold his own with the top players.

It was the first time Henman had been in such a situation — taking on the world No 6 in his own backyard — and, for a set and a half, he gave Becker a run for his money. Most people would have forgiven Henman for showing signs of stage-fright in front of an 11,000-strong German crowd, but the young man from Oxford was coolness itself. He started as he meant to go on, standing toe-to-toe with Becker, matching him ace-for-ace and having the temerity to threaten the famous Becker service.

Yet the gap between the top men and the young pretenders is a hard one to bridge and when it came to the key points in the first set tie-break, Henman did not have the power or experience to counter a player who has won six grand-slam titles in the past 12 years. "For the first set and a half, I was still hanging in there trying to create chances," he said, "but, at the end of the day, I think he's better than me. That's the bottom line."

Nevertheless, Becker was impressed with his opponent. "You improve by playing," he said. "He's only been on the circuit for two years and already he's come a long way. Who knows how far he will go. He has a great first serve, he's got good hands and he comes up with some surprising shots sometimes. All in all, he's a player with a good future."

Henman, for his part, knows exactly what he has to

do if he is to climb up the world rankings from his present position of No 29. "There's a lot to be gained from a week like this," he said. "Boris definitely takes some beating, but it's a consistency thing. When I'm playing my best tennis, I'm able to stay with someone of his calibre, but it is his consistency — he's able to keep playing like that for four or five sets. At the moment, I probably couldn't do that."

When Henman will have time to spend some of his newfound wealth is open to question. He has only a few days



Henman: improving

off before the preparations start in earnest for the first tournament of the year in Doha and, from there, it is on to the Australian Open.

Much of that time will be spent in the gym as he tries to strengthen his slender frame. Standing 6ft 1in and 11st 1lb, he knows he needs to be stronger. On Saturday, the sheer power of Becker, added to the years of dealing with the pressure points in pressure matches, made the difference.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed," Henman said, "but there a lot of positives to take away from this and the experience I have gained from playing some of the best will stand me in good stead."

## AAA to withhold financial support

THE AAA of England decided at its annual meeting on Saturday to resist offering financial assistance to the British Athletic Federation (BAF), despite having resources of £1.8 million (David Powell writes). The BAF has lost £750,000 in the past two years. "We do not want to pour money into the black hole that is the BAF," Eric Shirley, a delegate, said. "If there is money to spare it should go to our regions, where 100 per cent will be spent on athletics."

Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, expressed concern over a new television contract. "We have been unable to find out if this includes the AAA championship. There have been suggestions that only BAF championships will be included. If so, we shall try to obtain our own sponsor and TV contract."

## Cook finishes first

ATHLETICS: Stephanie Cook, a final year medical student at Oxford, who won the women's University cross-country race on Wimbledon Common, only took up running when injury stopped her rowing. Cook is now concentrating on modern pentathlon. She is in the national squad but admits it will be hard to fit in training, and her ambition to reach the Sydney Olympics, with her opening two years as a doctor. The Dark Blues took all the team honours, winning the women's race, men's race — to level the series at 53 victories each — and Old Blues race.

## Doncaster step down

FOOTBALL: Croydon moved above Doncaster Belles on goal difference in the Women's Premier National League after a 1-1 draw at Everton. Doncaster lost 3-2 at Arsenal in a pulsating match. The Belles went 2-0 up, through Vicky Exley and Karen Walker, before a second-half revival by Arsenal, who remain unbeaten, brought goals for Joanne Broadhurst, Kara-Lee Reynolds and Marieanne Spacey.

## Sussex fall short

LACROSSE: Hertfordshire, skipped by the England co-captain, Lois Richardson, became the women's All-England Counties champions for the first time in ten years when they defeated Sussex 3-0 in the final at Newbury on Saturday. Hertfordshire had been Berkshire in the semi-finals, while Sussex edged out Surrey in the final four as they reached the All-England finals for the first time.

## Male captures title

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, underlined his dominance with a hard-fought victory over the former world champion, Willie Boone, to take the Lacoste British amateur championship. Male, 32, who had survived a hard-hitting struggle in his semi-final to defeat Guy Barker, eventually emerged the winner, 4-15, 15-11, 17-14, 15-10.

## Hendry pockets award

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, pocketed another top award last night when he was selected as the BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year, an award he won in 1989. Hendry made it a double as he was also named in the Team of the Year, with Alan McManus and John Higgins, his fellow World Cup players.

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THE MARK OF A FINE ENGLAND



# Australia basks in barren nights and floodlit follies

The boys in the marketing department of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) got their heads together and came up with "One Day You Will Never Forget" as their slogan for the limited-overs series this year. A nonsense, of course, as the essence of a one-day game is that it is forgotten before the next one begins, but the catchphrase works like the chorus of an inane repetitive pop song.

For the sell-out crowd of 40,000 in Sydney yesterday, there were things to remember for a while, if not quite forever. The sun shone after a stormy 24 hours and Shane Warne took five wickets in 15 balls. After nightfall, although Curtly Ambrose smiled and bowled fast, things previously beyond him, Australia beat West Indies by eight wickets well before closing time. All reasons to be cheerful. Assess the game soberly, however, and it was dull, one-sided, formulaic.

Perhaps it was no bad thing, therefore, that distractions were on hand. Americanised musical jingles interspersed the action. Brian Lara, heartily booed onto the ground by a

nation that has taken against his tantrums, was out for 26 and dispatched to a rendering of *See You Later Alligator*. Sherwin Campbell's *adieu* was *Return to Sender*, and if Junior Murray was not sufficiently embarrassed by a dreadful dismissal to Warne, he had to walk off to *Hit The Road Jack*.

There is a great deal of international limited-overs cricket and the majority is mundane. To ensure that the crowds keep coming, ever more marketing devices are required. This, anyway, is how it is viewed in Australia, and they have more practice here than anywhere else.

Twenty years ago, the very idea of floodlit internationals was still being ridiculed. Coloured clothing was a shocking notion. It was then, late in 1976, that Kerry Packer was losing his fight to televise Australian Test cricket, and hatching the plans that were to spawn the excesses now taken for granted.

establishment. He still attends occasionally, and is welcomed like a favourite uncle, but there may be times when even he shakes his head at how far the product has been refined or abused, according to your taste, since the November night in 1978 when he staged the first floodlit match on the Sydney ground and 52,000 turned up.

The night-cricket clothes have improved, now properly resembling pyjamas rather than the skin-tight outfits that sat so unflatteringly on Rod Marsh and his generation, and subtle rule-changes have

## Alan Lee, in Sydney, on the hits and misses of cricket's latest marketing ploys

been generally for the good. It is, however, the presentation of night cricket that, year by year, has altered almost beyond recognition.

Two years ago, the ACB regained control of its own marketing, cutting links with the company first employed by Packer. Since then, the departmental turnover increased almost 400 per cent. This is genuinely big business, sufficient to allow the leading

Australian players to earn £200,000 a year from representing their country before any personal endorsements are added. In turn, the players are expected to be supportive of all areas of marketing, even those at which they may privately cringe.

Most players, for instance, deplore and resent the Mexican wave, considering it a potential distraction. The Australians cannot complain, for

it is actively encouraged by an advertisement for their Test-match sponsor, which depicts a plane-load of passengers and air crew performing it. The first wave yesterday occurred after 14 minutes.

It is all part of the desire for audience participation. The English do not go in for this, clinging to the admirable but off-misplaced belief that their spectators need nothing other than the cricket to amuse them. In England, where domestic one-day cricket is absurdly overplayed, the international equivalent is harshly rationed. Australia

were happy to play five Tests and five one-day games on the Ashes tour next summer, but England insisted on a split of six and three.

Priorities here have shifted back towards Test cricket, but they also know their one-day market and stomp at little to sustain and increase it. Lounge lizards are well fed. A recent poll identified cricket as the top television sport, so they are given valuable competitions and close access to their cricketers.

Those at the grounds find that banners, prohibited in England, are promoted (there is a prize for the best each day). Children, tolerated elsewhere, are keenly encouraged. The ACB has set up face-painting stalls on each ground, and the Christmas merchandise features a Shane Warne kit: how to bowl leg spin like the master. It is selling out everywhere.

Not before time, players wear large numbers on their backs for identification — it helps to persuade people to buy a programme, too. Automation now extends to the sight-screens, although the start yesterday was delayed because one was stuck in

commercial mode, but in a country where the competition of baseball, basketball and now even street hockey is being slapped down by the ACB, the American influence of sound and vision aids are the most striking change.

There was an experiment with individual songs for the entrance of each batsman — Glenn McGrath chose the Beatles' *Help* — but the send-offs are more popular. The symbiosis between giant screens and public address is sometimes agreeable enough, as when a show of racing results is accompanied by the drum of hoofbeats, but occasionally it strays into politically dubious areas.

A shot of a shapely woman in the crowd brought a bugle call: pictures of police moving in to an unruly element of the crowd were joined by the sound of a crackling whip. Some spectators seemed amused, others shifted uncomfortably. They reacted as one only when Warne was twice on a hair-trick. Then, the noise rose, unbidden, to a deafening crescendo. Sometimes, even in the obsessively modern world of one-day cricket, the game can still speak for itself.



Lara hits out during West Indies' defeat yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY	
<b>WEST INDIES</b>	
B L Campbell c Taylor b Warne	38
A P G Cummins c Taylor b Warne	1
B C Lara c Healy b Moody	26
G L Hooper c Healy b Warne	21
J C Adams c Healy b Warne	22
R I C Holder b Warne	22
T J Murray c Bennett b Warne	8
N A M McLean c Bennett b Warne	8
K C G Benjamin b Warne	1
C E L Ambrose not out	0
C A Watson b Warne	0
Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 5)	10
Total (48.3 overs)	161
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-22, 3-51, 4-124, 5-142, 6-147, 7-147, 8-155, 9-155	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
M A Taylor c Holder b Ambrose	17
M E Vaughan not out	33
R T Ponting b Warne	44
G S Blewett not out	12
Extras (w 1, nb 5)	6
Total (24 wickets, 48 overs)	165
M G Bevan, S G Law, T M Moody, W A Healy, P R Siddle, S K Warne and G D McGrath did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-137	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
Warne 9-0-35-1, Bennett 10-1-38-0, Ambrose 8-1-27-1, McLean 10-0-27-0, Hooper 5-0-24-0, Adams 4-1-16-0	
Man of the match: S K Warne	
Umpires: D G Har and T Pave	

## CRICKET: IMPROVED PERFORMANCE PROVIDES OVERDUE VICTORY ON TOUR OF ZIMBABWE

# England show signs of turning corner

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

A WIN is a win is a win. Matabeleland may not be a power in world cricket, but when you are as short of scalps as England, anyone's will do, and they gratefully accepted theirs at the Athletic Club here yesterday.

It was the touring party's first win in four matches in Zimbabwe and only their fourth in 19 games overseas in 1996, as against 14 defeats. Their previous victims were South Africa, in Bloemfontein, and the United Arab Emirates and Holland, in Peshawar.

If England are to lengthen this list before the year is out, there is still much work to be done because, although this was a great improvement on the insipid display against Mashonaland last week, this was not an entirely convincing performance, even if the margin — 59 runs — was. It was late afternoon before another embarrassing defeat could be ruled out.

The best aspect of the day was the form and fitness of Michael Atherton, the England captain. He had not been expected to play, and did so against the wishes of David Lloyd, the coach, but he was clearly confident that the injections that he had last Friday to reduce the pain in his lower back, had done the trick.

Opening the innings with Knight after England were put in, he helped them to their best start of the tour with a stream of crisp boundaries and looked set for a long stay. In fact, he misread a ball from Streak into the hands of silly mid-on to the eighth over when the score was already 45, but he had done enough to suggest that his bad rot was at an end. He later fielded enthusiastically and executed a smart run-out of Streak. "I actually enjoyed fielding," he said afterwards.

Unfortunately, England squandered their good start. On a ground with a temptingly short boundary on one side, they should have reached 250, but the good work of Atherton and Knight — who stayed until the fortieth over for 58 — was undone by a succession of players holing out. Hussain pushed a ball to wide mid-on, Russell — playing because Stewart was ruled out by a back spasm — were lured to their doom on the short side



Atherton pulls a ball from Streak to the boundary during his encouraging innings of 28 against Matabeleland in Bulawayo yesterday

of the ground. For this, some credit must go to outstanding fielding — far better than England's later — and the bowling of the Whitall cousins, Andrew and Guy.

This pair could hardly be more different. Andrew is tall and academic, Guy short and outdoorsy, having worked on his father's big game reserve before turning professional — both of which contrasts contribute to their dressing-room nicknames of Whit and Half-whit — but they shared the knack of strangling the life out of an England innings that had reached 120 for four after 30 overs, but only 210 for nine by its end.

Andrew — an off spinner whose first-class wickets cost him 50 runs each on average, suggesting that he will be no great threat come the Test

matches — removed Hussain and Thorpe and played his part in the partnership of 53 between Crawley and Irani, soaking up 14 overs. Guy's probing medium pace was rewarded with a wicket in

each of his last four overs. Another difference between the cousins is that Andrew is not a batsman and Guy is, as England already know from his innings of 58 and 36 not out in earlier matches on the tour.

SCORECARD FROM BULAWAYO	
<b>ENGLAND</b>	
M A Atherton c Streak b Whitall	58
N J Knight c Streak b Whitall	36
M J G Hussey c Streak b Whitall	11
G P Thorpe c Streak b Whitall	11
J P Crawley c Streak b Whitall	30
C P Grant c Streak b Whitall	20
R C Russell c Streak b Whitall	16
D Gough b G Whitall	2
R D B Leach b G Whitall	8
C E W Silverwood not out	4
Extras (b 3, w 1, nb 2)	16
Total (48.3 overs)	270
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-56, 3-114, 4-124, 5-173, 6-173, 7-173, 8-183, 9-201	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
Streak 7-0-28-1, Gough 9-0-34-2, Russell 7-0-24-0, A R Whitall 10-0-35-2, G J Whitall 10-0-45-4, Daker 7-0-35-1	
<b>MATABELELAND</b>	
G J Whitall c Gough b Silverwood	35
J R Craig b Thorpe	1
M J G Hussey c Mullally b Whitall	13
T M Mordred b Whitall	13
W R James c Knight b Craig	33
M D Adams b Whitall	33
H H Streak not out	13
M Ransford c Mullally b Silverwood	8
J A Rennie b Irani	8
R K O'Connell b Gough	2
Extras (b 3, w 3, nb 1)	7
Total (48.3 overs)	181
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-20, 3-44, 4-44, 5-112, 6-138, 7-138, 8-147, 9-148	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
Mullally 7-0-14-2, Gough 8-3-32-1, Silverwood 10-0-31-2, Craig 10-0-42-3, Irani 6-0-44-1	
Umpires: J Ferwick and E Gilmer	

He came good again yesterday with a sound 35, which suggested that he may be a handful in the Test. Fortunately for England, he was let down by his supporting cast and it was soon clear that, of the two cricketers in Zimbabwe, it is Mashonaland that have the monopoly on batsmen.

That said, England gave by far their best exhibition of bowling on the tour and it was this that gave Atherton most satisfaction. Mullally and Gough bowled with encouraging control for the first 12 overs — Mullally dispatching Craig and Dekker — Croft again bowled a probing spell and Silverwood showed the steadiness that got him on the tour and was so curiously absent in his first match, eight days earlier.

When James and Abrams were putting together Matabeleland's highest partnership of 47, in the middle of the innings, it was still possible to envisage an England defeat, but Croft removed both in four overs and the tail folded in the face of the rising asking rate.

While England showed signs of blowing the cobwebs off their bowling, there were indications that a few still clung to Olonga and Streak. Zimbabwe's likely new-ball pair for the Test matches, Olonga generated a good head of steam but finished witless, while Streak appeared cumbersome and well below his best. He has been out of action for several weeks with a groin strain and has plenty of catching up to do before the first Test match begins next week.

# Hegg on song as England A wind up trip

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BRISBANE

FEW cricketers can match Jack Russell, the England wicketkeeper, for the exuberance and enthusiasm he brings to his art. But Warren Hegg, who has emerged as a possible rival for his place, has both qualities in abundance, matched by a willingness to learn.

Hegg, 28, the Lancashire wicketkeeper, whose batting put him ahead of Keith Piper, Paul Nixon and Karl Krikken in the selection for the England A tour, has more than justified his inclusion in the 14-strong party with an impressive tally of 28 catches.

It is perhaps fitting, then, that Hegg will be playing against Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper and the cricketer he admires most, when England A complete their tour with a four-day match against Queensland at the Gabba, starting tomorrow.

Hegg, who along with Adam Hoolioke, the captain, are the only two players to have competed in every match of the tour, will take his place in a line-up which will not be finalised until the tourists take stock of various injuries.

Andrew Harris, the Derbyshire fast bowler, has a bruised foot and Jason Gallian, the Lancashire batsman, has a cracked right index finger. Both will have

rigorous net sessions at the Gabba tomorrow to prove their fitness.

Mark Ealham and Hollie-oake, who both suffered bruised fingers on the minefield of a pitch at Wollongong in the rain-hit one-day match against New South Wales on Saturday, are expected to be fit for selection.

<b>ENGLAND A</b>	
M A Butler c Matthews b Lee	20
M P Vaughan not out	3
A McGrath b Lee	10
T J Hockley c Emery b Lee	0
I W K Hegg c Roberts b Lee	1
C White c Chees b Lee	23
M A Gallian not out	19
A F Giles not out	0
Extras (b 5, w 6, nb 4)	15
Total (36 wickets, 30.4 overs)	154
G Chees, D W Healdy and P M Sush did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-30, 3-35, 4-45, 5-58, 6-144	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
Stuart 9-0-34-0, Neaves 9-1-57-0, Lee 8-0-35-4, Adlam 2-0-14-0	
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	
R J Matthews b W Alldam, R Chees b Lee, S Lee b Neaves, C J Richards b J Roberts, G R Roberts, M J Slater, A J Stuart, Umpires: J J Cameron and A G Jackson	

□ The England Under-19 bowlers overcame a frustrating start to their four-day match against Pakistan Under-19 in Faisalabad to gain a firm foothold. After winning the toss, Farhan Adil (26) and Shahid Qambrani (68) built up an opening partnership of 91, helped by two dropped catches, but England dropped through the rest of the order to leave Pakistan at 248 for nine at the close.

## Adams returns to haunt India

PAUL ADAMS, the wrist spinner, was the main reason why South Africa reached the tables on India on the first day of the third and final Test in Kanpur yesterday.

Adams, hit out of the attack during the morning session, returned to remove Rahul Dravid. Mohammed Azharuddin, the former India captain, and Sunil Joshi with-in three overs to reduce the home side to 204 for six by the close.

Tendulkar, whose side had looked in control for most of the day, was left isolated at the non-striker's end as four wickets tumbled for 33 runs after tea.

But the India captain, who ended the day undefeated on 43, knows that the wicket could benefit his side in the long run, with South Africa due to bat last on a slow, low and increasingly difficult track.

<b>INDIA: First innings</b>	
N R Mongia b McGrath	41
W V Raman c Kuseen b McGrath	17
S C Ganguly b McGrath	39
S R Tendulkar not out	43
S Dhas b McGrath	7
M Azharuddin c McGrath b Adams	5
S Joshi c Kuseen b Adams	0
A Kumble not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 1)	7
Total (48 wickets)	204
A R Kapoor, J Smith and B K V Prasad did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-111, 3-180, 4-185, 5-193, 6-193	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
De Villiers 15-7-18-0, Kuseen 17-4-47-0, Symcox 21-9-57-0, McGrath 18-7-42-0, Adams 14-8-31-2, Corp 5-4-5-1	
<b>SOUTH AFRICA: A C Hudson, G Kreen, T H Sibson, D J Gales, M J G Cummins, G M Mullen, D J Richardson, P J Smeeton, L Kuseen, P B de Villiers and P R Adams</b>	
Umpires: D R Shepherd (England) and S Venkateshwar (India)	

the first Test but were thrashed by 329 runs in Calcutta, opted to bat and his openers responded by reaching 76 without loss by lunch.

The South Africans, however, refused to lie down. Mongia, on 41 at the break,

lasted just five more balls before McGrath, the all-rounder, removed his middle stump. Mongia's partner, Raman, reached his half-century, claiming 11 boundaries on the way, but then drove at McGrath and saw the ball flash into Kuseen's hands at gully. Ganguly and Tendulkar seemed to have restored home advantage, taking India to 155 for two at tea.

Again, however, Hansie Cronje's men produced the perfect response, the South African captain trapping Ganguly leg-before on the front foot with the score on 160. Cronje and Fanie de Villiers then combined to bowl eight maiden overs in a row.

When Tendulkar looked set to break the spell, driving Symcox, the off spinner, into the long-on crowd for six, Adams, who had been hit for 23 off his first four overs, was recalled.

## Openers overwhelm Pakistan

NEW Zealand concluded their tour of Pakistan with a convincing seven-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international in Karachi yesterday. Chasing a Pakistan total of 234-4, New Zealand completed an emphatic victory in the 46th over in front of a near-50,000 crowd at the National Stadium.

<b>SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI</b>	
<b>PAKISTAN</b>	
Saeed Anwar c Young b Vaughan	16
Zameer Khan b Hart	51
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Gernon b Hart	7
Ijaz Ahmed not out	73
Muhammad Wasim c and b Harris	25
Waqar Younis not out	66
Extras (b 5, w 5, nb 3)	13
Total (48 wickets, 50 overs)	234
Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Mubashir Ahmed, Sajid Mahmood and Mohammad Zaidi did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-62, 3-103, 4-105	
<b>BOWLING</b>	
Doull 4-0-23-0, Vaughan 10-3-59-1, Harris 9-0-45-0, Aftab 8-2-27-0, Hart 10-1-33-2, Harris 5-0-42-1	
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	
B A Young c Wasim b Shahid	32

Young established the platform for New Zealand's victory with an aggressive opening stand of 96.

Astle, who was named man of the match, scored 60 off 69 deliveries, including four fours and a six, before he was run out.

Three balls earlier Young, who had reached 33 from 38 balls, was caught by Wasim

Akram, the Pakistan captain, off Shahid Afridi, the leg spinner. The pair were particularly severe on Mohammed Zahid, playing his first one-day international in place of Waqar Younis.

Stephen Fleming and Adam Parore further consolidated the New Zealand position with an 84-run third wicket partnership. Parore scored 47 before he was caught behind off Wasim while Fleming, who won the man-of-the-series award for New Zealand, remained unbeaten on 48. The other not out batsman was Chris Cairns, who made 25.

Earlier Wasim and Ijaz Ahmed had taken 68 — of a total partnership of 108 — off the last five overs of the innings. Saeed Anwar, the opener, was named man of the series for Pakistan. Pakistan won the series 2-1, while the earlier Test series was drawn 1-1.

# Good-bye battery



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FOOTBALL: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY EXPOSE FAILINGS OF ANFIELD TITLE HOPEFULS AS WIMBLEDON'S CHALLENGE GATHERS PACE

# Liverpool lose marks in test of potential

Liverpool ..... 0  
Sheffield Wednesday ..... 1

By DAVID MADDICK

IF THERE is a defining image of this match, it is of Steve McManaman, arm raised in futile demand of the ball. He was man-marked, with Peter Atherton the celebrity stalker, but that is routine for the Liverpool forward. Shadow or not, he still pleads for service. On this occasion, he did not get it.

Much was made of Sheffield Wednesday's use of their captain to contain the England international, but that rather missed the point. It was not that McManaman was subdued, but rather the supply lines to him. McManaman showed that, even with sparse service, he could still be dangerous, and yet his teammates seemed incapable of getting the ball to him.

"We didn't play with our heads, we did not play intelligent football," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "Steve McManaman was man-marked, yet he still had chances when he got the ball. But if we don't get the ball to him early, if we don't pass the ball with sharpness, then we will have problems, and that's what happened."

The match was a tactical success for David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, but not for something as simplistic as man-marking a danger-man. Four times Liverpool managed to get the ball to McManaman in the first half, with Atherton behind, and four times he was fouled. Eventually, a yellow card arrived. Another foul, another foul, and a red would have followed.

It did not, because Pleat's masterplan was not simply to shadow McManaman, but also to swamp Barnes and Thomas, who were the industry of Hyde, Pembroke and Whittingham that the Liver-

pool midfield barely saw the ball, let alone possession enough to craft the bullets for the forwards to fire.

Evans talked of finding alternatives under such circumstances, but if Liverpool have a weakness, it is here. McManaman and Bjornneby were imprecise on the flanks, and the three central defenders simply not comfortable enough on the ball. If the midfield is shackled, the wing back formation is designed to allow the sweeper to step up with the ball to create options. It does not work when, like Ruddock, the sweeper simply hoofs long balls down the field.

Put simply, Wednesday snapped and snarled in their terrier-like pursuit of the game, to such an extent that they forced the home side into mistakes that cost them the match. Indeed, the only surprise in a first half that Wednesday dominated was that they did not score more. Booth headed over and Pembroke blasted wide within the first two minutes, then Nicol almost crowned an impressive return to his former club with a near-post shot that James clawed out. Pembroke again volleyed wide, before he showed that his inaccurate shooting does have its uses.

After 21 minutes, McManaman, searching for McManaman, again gave the ball away to Atherton, who found Pembroke. His shot was woeful, but was mis-hit to such an extent that it found Whittingham, lurking towards the right edge of the penalty area, and his first-time stab found the net via the goalkeeper and post.

Only then did Liverpool look interested, but, as Evans said: "We can't afford to start playing when a third of the game has already gone." What little they did create came through McManaman, who forced an error from Pressman, only for the goalkeeper to atone with a fine



Atherton, right, the Wednesday defender who so effectively marked McManaman, briefly turns his attentions to thwarting Thomas

save from Fowler after McManaman had hit the post.

McManaman found the woodwork himself in the second half with a soaring header, and Pressman saved well from Fowler, again, and Berger. In truth, though, Liverpool's casual arrogance, throughout a first half that

they apparently thought was theirs by right, denied them the claim of injustice.

Wednesday move up to ninth in the FA Carling Premiership, but they are still a side in the making, more comfortable on afternoons like this, when they can frustrate and pick up the scraps rather

than take the responsibility of forcing the creative pace. To go higher, they will need more guile in midfield, and a more convincing presence alongside the willing Booth.

Does any team want to win the title? It appears that Liverpool do not, such is their poor home form. Two points from

the last nine hardly suggests championship material, but the similar reluctance of their chief rivals offers some consolation. Throughout the match, a perfunctory section among the Wednesday supporters bemoaned a mediocre beat. Such a rhythm, to their passing, is what Liverpool must

rediscover if they are to be champions.

LIVERPOOL (5-5-1-1): D. Jones — M. Wright, M. Ruddock, P. Booth (sub: Kennedy, 60min) — J. McManaman, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, P. Berger, S. I. Bjornneby — S. McManaman — R. Fowler.  
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-3-1-1): K. Pressman — J. Nicol, D. Walker, D. Siskovic, S. Reid — P. Atherton, Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke — S. Carbone (sub: R. Barker, 78) — A. Booth. Referee: M. Reed.

## Kinnear keeping his dream alive

Sunderland ..... 1  
Wimbledon ..... 3

By MARK HODKINSON

THE question was simple enough but, for a second, Joe Kinnear's honest blue eyes iced over and not a word was spoken. Caught dreaming, he hurriedly summoned cliché and ambiguity to hide his apoplexy — an excusable reaction, surely, since the question had never been asked before: could Wimbledon win the FA Carling Premiership?

"We'll take each game as it comes," he muttered on Saturday. "I don't want to put extra pressure on the lads. All I can say is that it has taken me seven years to put this squad together, and if we can stay injury-free and we're still in this position with six or seven games to go, we are going to be as hard to beat as anyone."

The subtext was manifest, despite the linguistic fog. Kinnear believes that Wimbledon can win the league. And why not? His team is second only to Arsenal, is unbeaten in 18 matches and, most significant, is playing a mature, confident brand of football.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, suggested that it was "men against boys", and while this slightly overstated the disparity, Wimbledon's cunning and ruthlessness was beyond the ken of blood-and-thunder Sunderland.

Reid's team works at one pace, an extremely fast one with which rudiments such as passing and dribbling are merely coincidental. Sunderland attempt to draw the air from the match until, more by effort than design, opponents end up gasping for breath, wondering how the ball ended up in their net. Wimbledon were, in effect, playing against the ghosts of their former selves.

These days, however, in players such as Leonhardsen, Earle and Ekoku, they have statesmen able to rise above ignominious squabbles. They stepped gracefully through the blur of tackles, their minds and feet always two seconds in front of their earnest pursuers.

Wimbledon's intelligent approach was apparent throughout. They had clearly passed a watchful eye over their opponents. Perez, quite rightly, was earmarked as being perturbed by players in close proximity.

Robson feels heat ..... 34  
Woking wonders ..... 33  
Fry survives ..... 31

so, at every free kick and corner, Blackwell contested the six-yard area.

The first goal came from Ekoku's forehead smash after some head tennis in the Sunderland penalty area. The same player added a second with a crisp shot from a fine pass by Shaye. Sunderland's first shot came when Ratten tested Sullivan from distance ten minutes before half-time.

Sunderland countered briefly when Melville headed in direct from a corner but, five minutes later, Ekoku embarked on a salom run between defenders, the ball ricocheting to Holdsworth, who curled it adroitly past Perez.

"We're going to win the league," the clutch of Wimbledon supporters sang, while Sam Hammam, the club's owner, hugged every player as they left the pitch. In contrast, there were grumbles from the Sunderland supporters. Although unequivocally beaten by the better team, they were right to ponder why Reid had played just one striker, Russell, and left the club's best player, Bridges, on the substitutes' bench until nearly an hour had elapsed.

Reid was not hiding his respect for Wimbledon. "They deserved the victory," he said. "They are very well organised. I am hoping my lads will see it as a lesson learnt. I am not going to go raving mad at the lads after one defeat against a very good team."

Kinnear cheerfully accepted every after-match request for an interview. The same simple question was asked repeatedly. His eyes began to twinkle again, the smile grew broader. Wimbledon, just 19 years on from their Football League debut — a 3-3 draw with Halifax Town — are set for a Premiership title challenge. The dream goes on.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): I. Phillips — D. Kibuka, A. Melville, R. Carr, M. Scott — O. Kelly (sub: M. Bridges, 50min), P. Blackwell, K. Bala, M. Smith — A. Ratten (sub: M. Gray, 81).  
WIMBLEDON (4-3-1-3): M. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Kinnear — R. Earle (sub: M. Harrison, 75), V. Jones, W. Aducci — O. Leonhardsen, M. Goyle (sub: D. Holdsworth, 78), E. Ekoku. Referee: K. Budge.

## Iversen receives highest praise

Coventry City ..... 1  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 2

By IVO TENNANT

COMPARISONS may be odious, but they are also inevitable. Upon arrival at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground last week, Steffen Iversen, their new forward from Norway, signed for £2.5 million, was asked which number he would like to have emblazoned on his shirt. Unwittingly, but much to his pleasure, he opted for the talismanic figure of 18, once worn with distinction by Jürgen Klinsmann.

The comparisons did not end there. Indeed, they were carried on by Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, long after this well-merited victory. Iversen, he reckoned, not only looks like Klinsmann but plays like him, too. "He has two good feet, pace, ability in the air, gives Teddy Sheringham more space and I have seen him score lots of excellent goals in Europe."

By the time Francis had finished his giddy discourse, he had made you believe Iversen was a world-beater. There is, though, the matter of burden of expectation. Not many footballers from overseas have been, or will be, as successful as Klinsmann. Against Coventry City, having met his colleagues only the previous day, Iversen was given the ball all too infrequently.

However, he played a memorable part in Tottenham's second goal, scored by Sinton, which was the culmination of a four-man move across Coventry's goal initiated by Sheringham. What Iversen —

who, incidentally, will have to complete his national service in the near future — will assuredly give the club and the supporters is greater strength in attack.

Yet the impression remains that Francis, conversely a top-class player himself, prefers making the most of individuals of lesser talents as opposed to managing the superstars. This is laudable in itself, but is not necessarily what is required at a club of Tottenham's standing. Not when Arsenal are leading the FA Carling Premiership.

In coded language, Sheringham has emphasised to Francis that Tottenham should be looking to do more than consolidate. He himself had a splendid match, having a volleyed goal unluckily disallowed for offside and bringing an intuition and style to Tottenham's game.

Sheringham it was who scored Tottenham's first goal, which, if anything, looked more offside than the one that was disallowed. Coventry's equaliser, forced in by Whelan after Walker had beaten out Dublin's header, was barely deserved. Gordon Strachan, who has to succeed where Ron Atkinson, for all his managerial experience, could not, summarised their predicament. "We always seem to be chasing the game," he said.

Strachan has all too little time before relegation is imminent and the tumbrils start to roll.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrizovic — B. Barnes (sub: P. Toller, 70min), P. Williams, I. Grant, B. Shaw — J. Sinton, C. McAllister, N. Whelan, E. Jones (sub: R. Geraoui, 78) — D. Odian, D. Mordy.  
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-3): I. Williams — S. Carr, S. Campbell, C. Caulfieldwood, C. Wilson — R. Foy, D. Howley, A. Nansen (sub: J. Doolan, 81), A. Sinton — E. Sheringham, S. Iversen. Referee: G. Willard.

## Time to give young talent a chance

IN a week when Liverpool unveiled plans for an £8 million soccer academy, youth football is once more high on the agenda. It is about time, because it is an important issue and increasingly so, and only now are we starting to get to grips with it in this country.

I was heartened by the news that Liverpool will boost the most advanced youth structure in England. Obviously, we are hoping that it will ensure the club's success in the future, but I do hope that other clubs will follow, because we need a stronger and broader base in our game.

It is an issue I have always taken an interest in. I am often cited as one of the successes of Liverpool's youth system, and I recognise that I am used as an example for other young players with coaching kids, too. I have taken several coaching clinics, and this week I went to Tithe Barn School in Stockport to take a look at how the youngsters are shaping up. I was impressed.

Some of the boys were as young as eight, but they had an energy and enthusiasm to be proud of, and great skills. And yet, in many ways, I don't believe the obvious love for the game by kids all over the country is being tapped as it might be.

Liverpool's academy will be based on the Ajax model, but too often in this country we are lagging behind other European nations when it comes to developing young players. Clubs all have policies, but they tend to work in isolation, without any real involvement in the schools. How many times do we hear

complaints that foreign players have better technique. But is it true?

We have players with outstanding technique, but maybe not enough professionals at a high level, and that could be connected to the fact that there is no structure bringing schools into the development chain. They have it in Holland, where club coaches are in regular contact with all schools and children from the age of about seven. Perhaps it is time for something similar to happen here.

Instead, we frequently don't even have school football teams any more. More and more you hear of under-resourced schools stopping their sports teams. It happened to me when I was at secondary school. For about three years we didn't have a team at all, and that seems common these days.

It is a shame, because if there was a recognised structure, starting in the schools at a young age, it could only

STEVE  
McMANAMAN



on the need for a system overhaul

help our game. What happens now is fairly basic. Players are sent for trials on a hit-and-miss basis, usually just from certain schools. They have one chance, and that's it for a few years. It



McManaman passes on his skills to youngsters at Tithe Barn School in Stockport

happened to me. I wonder how many decent young players never even get seen by clubs because of the flaws in that system?

Instead, why not have organisers going into schools, keeping in touch with the team coach, finding out who the best players are. Then they could be easily fed into the academies. I know that is what Liverpool plan to do, and I'm sure it will work.

That way, the local organisers could also help to establish a better standard of coaching at a much younger age. I look back on my experience as a kid, and there were some fairly bad moments. Rarely do the youngsters get developed in ways that seem sensible. It's all kick and rush on pitches that are too big. There are also far too many games for the good kids.

I remember one cup semi-final, when I was only ten or 11. The opposition had a free kick, and our goalkeeper was

only a small lad, stuck in full-size goals. They just got their biggest boy to lump the ball hard into the air above his head. That sort of thing does nothing to help youngsters to develop the technique required later.

I was very small and very thin as a young player, a jinky little winger who dribbled all afternoon, but I feel players like me are not given enough opportunities because our system doesn't encourage it. We had a good side, but we were very small, and that was a disadvantage when it shouldn't have been.

It's not just at school, either. With England, when I was older, some of the coaching still wasn't what you might expect. It's hard to believe, but we were frequently taught to just give the ball a wellie and chase after it.

At least at Liverpool they do it the right way. They get the kids at a young age and concentrate on ball skills and movement. There are no complicated tactics, and definitely no emphasis on players who are big and strong.

The most important players at a professional level are those with great technique, movement and thought, players such as Gullit, Cantona and Barnes. If you concentrate on that at an early age, you are likely to get far more players with better technique.

It is so simple, surely everyone should be doing it. But until we have a well thought-out structure that allows clubs to go into schools to influence the coaching, the number of games played and the way in which kids are brought through, then we will remain behind some of the continental countries. Let us hope that Liverpool's plans are a significant step.

After a brief squabble over squad bonuses and the long dispute concerning Pierre van Hooijdonk's contract, the impression has grown of a fractious and irresponsible club. The loss of Jackie McNamara, with a hamstring injury, is a further incitement to self-pity.

With Jorge Cadete summoned to join the Portugal squad and van Hooijdonk certain to be in the Holland party, Celtic may seek postponement of their matches against Kilmarnock and Raith Rovers this week. At this moment, however, the club's deepest yearning must be for a cancellation of the entire season.

On the other hand, Celtic have failed whenever presented with the kind of pivotal game that decides a championship and are turning into habitual losers of the Old Firm fixture. As Burns knows, inferiority to Rangers has always

## McCoist's steel provides Rangers with cutting edge

AS IF it were not enough to be a prolific forward, Ally McCoist has also proved to be a master of disguise. Listening to his careful banter, one might suppose that the only leadership quality he possesses is the telegraphic ambiguity that persuaded the BBC to give him the job of captain on *A Question of Sport*.

Leaping to that conclusion, however, carries a person bounding over the sort of distance normally achieved only by an Olympic triple jumper, so far removed is it from the truth. McCoist's features are always on the alert for the next joke, but the extent of the grin conceals the depth of the determination. He pursues remorselessness with a smile.

It is possible to count the precise number of occasions on which this fact ought to have registered. His brace, in the 4-3 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Saturday, set a new post-war scoring record for league football in Scotland of 265 goals. The first 22 of them were banked with St Johnstone when he was still a teenager.

The only appointment McCoist is guaranteed to keep is the one that requires him to arrive in the six-yard box at precisely the right instant. "This is the earliest I've ever been late," he is supposed to have announced, proudly, when turning up for a club function only a little while after everyone else.

It is natural that he should

think time is elastic since McCoist, 34 and far from fit, continues to be vital to Rangers. The club could soon sign Sebastian Rozenthal from Universidad Catolica for £2 million, but the Chilean forward may prove to be the veteran's partner in the side rather than his replacement. After all, no youth from a distant land would be trusted to pump Rangers full of indefatigability, as McCoist did on Saturday.

Wearily after defeat by Auxerre and lacking at least five players who would usually be selected, the Ibrox side encountered a resolute performance from Hibernian and fell 2-1 behind. McCoist's goals, fine examples of the poacher's art, heaved Rangers

back into a 3-2 lead. Whether one describes him as pursuing a personal ambition or as fighting the club's cause is unimportant; the steelness with which he sets about his work is all that matters.

Its consequence is the eight-point lead Rangers now hold over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. The advantage springs from the strength of purpose shown by McCoist and his teammates while enduring all the hyperbole and anxiety that surrounds the attempt to equal the record of nine successive championships held by their Glasgow rivals.

Celtic have simply buckled. A 2-1 defeat by Motherwell at Fir Park shamed Tommy Burns's team as much as it damaged them. The Lanarkshire side lost their goalkeeper, Scott Howie, with a suspected fracture of the cheekbone after 64 minutes and had to replace him with Jamie Dolan, a small midfielder whom the reference books claim to be 5ft 9in.

KEVIN  
McCARRA



Scottish commentary







\_\_\_\_\_



# Rob Hughes sees Barcelona, and an Englishman abroad, bow to the might of Madrid

## Real power poses threat to Robson's reign in Spain

The euphoria that was Bobby Robson's few short weeks ago, the relish in particular of being guardian to Ronaldo, arguably the world's greatest developing talent, left the English manager in Spain abruptly, deep into Saturday night.

When Real Madrid's marvelous second goal went in against his Barcelona team in the second half, Robson was slumped in the corner of the dugout — a man alone in a crowd of more than 100,000 at Real's Bernabeu Stadium, a man whose every response to what players young enough to be his grandchildren were doing was being monitored by five hundred million television viewers in 40 countries. This is what football managers call "pressure".

Many of those suffering souls who never grapple with anything more complicated than the English game would say that they would swap dugouts with the Durham miner's son for his million-pound salary. Little do they appreciate that one defeat, notably a 2-0 defeat to the imperial power from Madrid, quickens tempers in Catalonia, where Robson's task is, first and foremost, to defeat the enemy from the south.

He is trying something even more special. At 63, Robson seeks to conclude probably his final challenge by adding the Spanish league title to the championships he managed in Holland, with PSV Eindhoven, and in Portugal, with FC Porto. What does a manager, any manager, do when the opposition scores twice, and his own team shows the spirit to come back, strike the woodwork twice, and the footballing world sits in judgment? After a ten-hour build-up for this 144th encounter between Real and Barcelona, the rigour and order that Fabio Capello, released last summer by AC Milan, has so quickly ingrained into his side, were better than the liberalism that Robson allows his individuals, culled from Portugal, France, Romania and, of course, Brazil.

He needed something like Brit-

ish never-say-die spirit against Capello's equally cosmopolitan squad. He got it from Luis Enrique and Guardiola, but the mercenaries — fellows like Popescu, Figo and Giovanni — only seemed prepared to run so far. At that point the legs were run off them by players representing a club trying to see off a mountain of debt and simultaneously to recapture the honour of being called the best side in the world.

The goals, though so different in style, were claimed first by a Croat, and then a Montenegrin. After 24 minutes, Roberto Carlos, the Brazil left back, swung in a low, curling free kick. It was missed, negligently, by Luis Enrique and the Frenchman, Laurent Blanc, but even more negligent was to leave Davor Suker, a man already renowned for his predatory instincts. "This night is the biggest in the world after a World Cup," he had said. Suker, dark, lean and upright, finished with the stealth of a rifleman.

If that goal was harsh, given that Barcelona were then achieving the aim of possessing the ball and frustrating the Madrid aficionados, the second strike, four minutes into the second half, was pure class.

It came with the smoothness, almost the indolence, with which seemingly every fan in this awesome, five-tiered stadium, peeled the silver foil off their ham sandwiches during the break. Zip, zip, zip and zip again went the passes. Secretario, from Portugal, began the inspiration from right back. His pass to Hierro

volleyed with the instep. Hierro strode forward and released the ball from the centre circle. From there, the two former Yugoslavs, Suker and Mijatovic, worked on and off the ball, and joined with the surging Dutchman, Seedorf, to carve cunning openings in the Barcelona resistance in the space of split seconds.

It must have been almost a relief when those representing Catalonia saw the sheer brilliance, the toying with their defenders, and with the ball gently lobbed forward by Seedorf and artfully passed into the net by Mijatovic.

Where was Ronaldo, the Brazilian for whom Manchester United were allegedly paying £20 million? He was there, and how we knew it. Everybody was interviewing him, following him, praising and occupying him. The young man had his knee operated on long before his twentieth birthday; and he had this mammoth television audience dissecting, frame by frame, some of the astonishing dribbles.

Amazing two-footed technique and muscular might that make him the leading scorer in the Spanish league, with 13 goals in his first 16 games.

Whatever Mancunians may wish, he is the property of Barcelona, whose response to even a sniff of a bid was to offer him another half a million pounds on his £1.3 million salary. Would Manchester offer Ronaldo's family the Mediterranean climate of Barcelona? Would they find a villa as luxurious as this young genius's family enjoys rent-free? Would Nike, his

other paymaster to the tune of £750,000 per annum, want him transferred to the city of Umbro? Business interwoven with sport.

Not just because Ronaldo's head is shaved, not just because he has a fully developed and imposing build, he appears quite manly, and certainly undisturbed by the clamour. Outside, as youths not far short of his age attempted to climb the giant towers of the stadium, Ronaldo confirmed that he is flattered by Manchester United's interest, flattered by comparisons to Cruyff and Pelé, but said: "I am happy where I am. I have a long way to travel for Barcelona and for Brazil. I want to win the Spanish title and the World Cup, and I think both are possible."

From the youth to the men who bought him. A harsh observer will have seen how grey and forlorn, how apparently old, Robson looked in his stillness, compared with Capello. "Capello has demonstrated his class tonight," Luis Fernandez, the former France international, who was one of a great phalanx of managers and coaches drawn to "the game of the century", said.

Robson, even in defeat, showed his defiance. He argued that his players had created opportunities; that, even two goals down, they had shown spirit. This man, who managed England in the frenzy of the Azteca Stadium with its 114,000 audience, who had taken Ipswich Town through a 0-0 draw against Real Madrid decades ago, insisted: "Defeat tonight had nothing to do with the atmosphere. Sure, it was electric, fantastic. But these players of mine are internationals. Their performance today, and for the rest of this season, is up there with Real Madrid... and I tell you we will be very much closer to them when we meet again, at our place, towards the end of the season."

Closer than first and second? History, the whole defiance of the Catalanian people, demands something higher than closer. They will be numero uno, or Robson will be retired.



Ronaldo feels the full weight of Secretario's tackle during the summit meeting in Spain

**'Robson was slumped in the dugout, a man alone in a vast crowd'**

FA CUP: CAMBRIDGE THE LATEST TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF VAUXHALL CONFERENCE TEAM

## Dismissal pegs back Enfield

Enfield ..... 1  
Peterborough United ..... 1

By NICK SIEGHEPANEK

THE sight of footballers kissing is nothing new; managers however, are another matter. But then George Borg, of Enfield, (the kisser) and Barry Fry, of Peterborough United, (the kissed) are something of a mutual admiration society. "I've worked for him, I've played for him, I love him to death; he's great," Borg said of his mentor after the drawn FA Cup second-round game at the Isis League club's Southbury Road ground on Saturday. Fry was only slight-

ly less effusive about Borg, once captain under his management at Maidstone, who is now in charge of Barcelona, will make the draw for the third round of the FA Cup tonight. The draw will be shown live on BBC2 at 10.15pm.

SECOND-ROUND REPLAY DATES:  
December 17: Wycombe Wanderers v Barnet (7.45); Peterborough United v Enfield (7.45); Barnet v Wycombe (7.45); Scunthorpe United v Wrexham (7.45).

less effusive about Borg, once captain under his management at Maidstone, who is now in charge of Barcelona, will make the draw for the third round of the FA Cup tonight. The draw will be shown live on BBC2 at 10.15pm.

To tell the truth, the bonhomie was probably fuelled partly by relief on both sides that they were still in the competition. Either team could have been eliminated during a frantic final minute, which encapsulated the drama of the Cup, even if the match as a whole did not. First it seemed Peterborough must score the winner in a scramble inches from Enfield's goal line. Then the ball was hacked clear to Arnon, who set off on a blistering 50-yard run that was only stopped by Griemink's dive at his feet.



Borg bonhomie

The ball broke to Gentle, a substitute, but as the visitors feared the worst, he shot over the crossbar.

"If he'd hit the target, we'd have been out," Fry said. "It looked like we might get one, then the ball went out to that whippet and he slaughtered us. At least miracles happen; Peterborough United are in the draw for round three."

Only just, after falling behind early on when Marshall's turn and lob caught Griemink off his line. Peterborough were in some danger until Graham Pooley, the referee, rightly showed Hannigan, the Enfield defender, the red card for a rash high tackle on Houghton. Neither manager agreed with the decision, which Fry described as "unfortunate". Borg said: "A yellow card would have been fair."

The loss of Hannigan necessarily curtailed Enfield's ambitions, but Peterborough were still unable to find much rhythm, and despite mounting pressure, Charley's equalising header ten minutes into the second half proved to be their only effort on target.

The tension got to Houghton, Hannigan's earlier victim, who was booed throughout by the Enfield supporters. When he was substituted late in the game, he took off his shirt and threw it at his manager. "He's the best shirt-puller-off-and-thrower in the world," Fry said. "I'm not sure if he's sick with me or himself."

"Although we got in good positions, Pape didn't have a shot to save. Enfield fought like tigers, which you expect from George's team, and deserved to get a replay." Such was Fry's verdict as a manager; and in his other role, as owner? "I need the replay — I need the money."

Borg is also looking forward to the return at London Road. "The players deserve another crack at it," he said. "We'll be prepared and we'll give it a go. Barry's got some quality players even though they are not doing well in the league. Knowing him as I do, he'll turn them round and I hope that will happen after we beat them at Peterborough."

Cambridge United ..... 0  
Woking ..... 2

By WALTER GUMMITE

THIS time, Clive Walker admitted, his match-winning stroke of genius had a hint of luck.

Woking's FA Cup second-round tie against Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday was, he felt, heading for a draw unless somebody "tried something a little bit different." Given unexpected room 25 yards from goal outside the top left-hand corner of the Cambridge penalty area, Walker floated over a high, hanging cross to the far post.

He had reasoned that Scott Barrett, the Cambridge goalkeeper, had dealt with his previous couple of crosses — flatter, quicker and aimed at the middle. "I thought I'd hit the ball long to see if I could find Darran Hay or someone beyond the far post," Walker said. "When I looked up, I thought, 'if it bends, it's going to go in.'"

Send the ball did, and brushed off the post into the net. The goal, in the 74th minute, might have been blessed with luck but it was the kind earned by calculated premeditation from a player who is a past master at trying for every little bit going.

Nor was Woking fortunate to win. The Vauxhall Confer-

ence side did not even have to endure the 80-minute rear-guard action needed for their 1-0 first-round replay win at Millwall. Within ten minutes of Walker's goal, Wye and Walker combined down the right. Hay fired a shot that was blocked and Taylor charged up to sweep the ball past Barrett.

Cambridge had, in Hyde, yellow-booted and blue-mitted, and Preece, rather less ostentatious, a potent midfield combination. Batty, in the Woking goal, however, proved himself alert to every danger. "He's the best goalkeeper in non-League football. Magnificent — is that good enough?" Walker said, turning with a grin to his team-mate.



Walker approached



Equally impressive was Foster, a central defender signed for £9,000 from Telford United, whose speed and reading of the game brought him back to make a sliding interception to rob Beall and a flying header to deny Kyd. "He's only 21," Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, said. "His worth at least £100,000 more than the £9,000. I'm going to have trouble keeping him. I've already got clubs looking at him."

It is keeping hold of a rather more senior figure that is his immediate concern — a 39-year-old whom he compared to Bobby Charlton — bald pate, two good feet, ambassadorial qualities and all. Walker has been approached by Rushden and Diamonds to become their player-coach. Under contract with Woking, he insisted the decision is not his. "It's up to the management committee — the ball is in their court," he said.

The committee, the 11-strong decision-making or decision-muddling body, take your pick, that runs the club meets tonight. Chapple said: "I don't think he'll leave. He enjoys it here. The last three or four

seasons have been good to him. He's made a lot of friends. The grass is not always greener. It's not just about the money they can offer."

Walker had made no secret that he wants to become involved in coaching. "We've got a coach [Colin Lippiant] and a set-up with 14 or 15 players," Chapple said. "It works well. The way he's playing I can't see why Clive won't get another playing contract. I'll be ready to think again if we get into the Football League, but I can't change things at the moment."

Woking's league ambitions may be lost for the season if the Cup draw throws up an attention-stealing tie. "It's got to be Old Trafford for me," Chapple said. "Chelsea, Batty, hollered, not just for his own sake, but pointing towards Walker, the Stamford Bridge old boy."

The Kidderminster Harriers manager certainly hopes so. Chapple revealed that his team to the 4-1 win over Dover Athletic that took them 12 points clear of Woking in the Conference, sent a fax "hoping you stay in the Cup as long as possible."

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-5-2): S Barrett — J Craddock, M Joseph, D Grannell — P Reynard, R Hyde, D Preece (subs: Thompson, Smith, M Beal, A Hines (sub: R Turner, 80) — M Kodj, J Barnett. Woking (3-4-1-2): J Batty — T Howard, K Brown, S Foster — S Wye, S Thompson, J Jones, R Taylor — S Steele (sub: A Ellis, 82) — D Newbold, J Hunter, 80, C Walker. Referee: G Pelt.

## Hednesford dance into third round

By KERRY PRICE

WOKING'S FA Cup exploits may have become something of a routine, but there was no disguising the joy felt by their Vauxhall Conference colleagues, Hednesford Town and Stevenage Borough, as they furthered the cause of the "fifth division" on Saturday. Both clubs travelled to Nationwide League opposition and both returned savouring well-deserved places in the third-round draw.

Hednesford's triumph over Blackpool, secured with Joe O'Connor's goal three minutes from time, prompted John Baldwin, the manager, to dance a jig of delight across Bloomfield Road. It was, he said, "a dream come true and the greatest day in the club's history."

For every winner... stew-

ards had to protect Gary Megson as supporters of the club that won the Cup in 1953 called for the manager's head. Vicki Oyston, the Blackpool chairman, refused to be panicked. "I've got to look at the long-term interests of Blackpool," she said. "I don't believe in knee-jerk reactions."

Stevenage, who, but for a controversial decision to deny them automatic promotion, would have been competing against Leyton Orient as third division equals, rammed home the point with a 2-1 triumph at Brisbane Road. The Conference champions were ahead inside a minute through Corey Browne, pegged back by Channing's header, but in front again before half-time thanks to Neil Catlin. Peter Shilton, in the Orient goal, had little

chance of stopping either goal.

Boreham Wood came within six minutes of forcing a replay against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, but it can go horribly wrong for the minnows. St Albans were swamped 9-2 by Bristol City at Ashton Gate, where Agostino scored four, while Ashford Town conceded five goals in the second half to Watford at Vicarage Road.

For Brentford, there are a few hours left to cling to the prospect of a preferred third-round pairing with Manchester United; for Sudbury Town, thoughts must turn to night-havens and the forthcoming delights of Merthyr and Mildenhall. Sudbury had heroism by the tractor-load, but out the Suffolk side went, 3-1. Sometimes, bravery is just not enough.

Sudbury's FA Cup journey had started at Gorleston in September and proceeded via those other football hothouses of Purfleet, Corby and Canvey Island. By the time that they had reached the competition proper for the first time, beating Brighton was a breeze. On Saturday, though, class told.

Brentford were too composed, too determined and ultimately too fit for their Dr Martens League rivals. With six former Colchester United players in their ranks, Sudbury had chosen Layer Road — scene of one of the great upsets a quarter of a century ago — as the venue. Yet if they sought inspiration, they found only frustration and, but for the heroics of Steve Mokler, their defiant, diminutive goalkeeper, it could have been a humiliation.

## Bolton pay the penalty for Branagan error

West Bromwich Albion . . . 2  
Bolton Wanderers . . . 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

A THICK fog lingered over the West Midlands yesterday, but at The Hawthorns the promotion credentials of Bolton Wanderers remained clearly visible. All good teams chisel out results when they are some way off their best, and that was the case as Bolton extended their lead at the top of the Nationwide League first division to three points against a West Bromwich Albion side that overcame a number of injuries to display a tenacity that enabled them to twice come back from behind.

However, Bolton were not entirely happy with their afternoon's work. But for a moment of indiscipline from Keith Branagan, the goalkeeper, they would have completed their fourth away win of the season and, remarkably, only their second in the last 21 encounters between these sides here. The visitors were 2-1 up with 12 minutes left when, needlessly, Branagan pushed Paul Peschisoldo after catching a cross from Paul Groves. The penalty was awarded and Taylor, a substitute, duly converted, although not before both Branagan and Blake had been booked by Kevin Lynch, the referee, for dissent.

In all, six players were shown the yellow card in what was, at times, an unedifying spectacle. Just three minutes had gone when Dobby, of Albion, playing against his former club, clattered into Blake and should have been dismissed, regardless of the early stage of proceedings. Later, Taggart, the Bolton defender, was guilty of a similarly gruesome challenge on Peschisoldo near the corner flag.

Bolton have led the division since the middle of September. The departure of Sasa Curcic has been compensated by the arrival of Per Frandsen, who might not possess the maverick individual qualities of the Serb but fits into the overall pattern more easily.

There was an element of fortune in the way that he found himself in a position to put Bolton ahead, after 37 minutes, but his finish was as cool as the temperature. A pass to McGinlay rebounded back into his path off the

unfortunate Smith and he curled a shot away from Crichton from 14 yards.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, warned his players at half-time to be more cautious in the way they moved forward and blamed bad positioning for the manner in which Peschisoldo was allowed to level two minutes after the resumption. He met a through-ball from Sneekes unopposed and continued unchanged before tucking his shot beyond Branagan.

Todd claims that he is no longer interested in signing Mike Newell, the Birmingham striker, and can have no qualms with the effort of either McGinlay or Blake. Indeed, a

Schools sport ..... 36

good work-rate was apparent throughout a side generally noted for flair rather than strength.

Had they been spared that rush of blood by Branagan, Bolton may have eased success, because Todd felt that they were at their most comfortable after Fairclough, punishing a mistake by Agnew, had put them 2-1 ahead. Then again, television replays suggested that Albion should have won a second penalty in injury time, when a cross from Coldicott struck Taggart on the arm.

"We cannot keep shooting ourselves in the foot," Todd said. "Keith had a good afternoon in general, but it was a moment of stupidity. We have to be more professional in a situation like that."

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (3-5-2): P Crichton — J Dobby, P Agnew, D Burgess — P Hetherington, R Snodgrass (sub: S Coldicott (sub: P Groves, I Hamilton, D Smith — P Peschisoldo, A Hunt (sub: R Taylor, 71). BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergerson, C Fairclough, G Taggart, J Phillips — D Lee (sub: M Johnston, 78), P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Solari — J McCortley, N Blake. Referee: K Lynch.

**AA**

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# Packers prepare to come in from the cold

Frank Emmert Jr is not a nationally known figure, but he is a celebrity in these parts. His fame has lasted for more than a year now, since the day when the light plane in which he was a passenger crashed a couple of hundred miles from here, at a place called Stevens Point. The doctors who treated him said his life had been saved because he was wearing a giant piece of cheese on his head. The cheese, you see, was there as a sign of allegiance to Green Bay Packers, the team from small town, blue-collar America that is threatening to rip the Super Bowl away from big city slickers such as Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers this year and inject a rare shot of sentimentality and romance into American football.

## 'Team is the town's only source of pride'

Packers supporters glory in the nickname "Cheeseheads" because of the prevalence of dairy farming in Wisconsin. Emmert's escape, a result of the cheese cushioning the impact when the plane crashed on its way back from a Packers game in Cleveland, merely confirmed

the opinion here that being a Packers fan really is a matter of life and death.

It only takes a few hours in this town — population 96,456 — that huddles around an inlet off Lake Michigan, about 200 miles north of Chicago near the Canadian border, to realise quite how interwoven in the fabric of everyday life the team is. The degree of intensity of support it attracts is unerring. It is a kind of sporting commitment that is a social phenomenon.

Yesterday nearly 60,000 supporters braved sub-zero temperatures for more than three hours to watch the Packers entertain Denver Broncos in a game many predicted was a preview of next month's Super Bowl. Led by one of the best quarterbacks in the league, Brett Favre, and the fearsome defensive end, Reggie White, the Packers have already qualified for the end of season play-offs.

But they are not passing fad. Support for them pervades the community in a way that puts even the passion of, say, Newcastle

## Oliver Holt discovers small town supporters in Green Bay dreaming of being big cheeses in American football again

United supporters in the shade. Everywhere in Green Bay, men and women, young and old, traditional and trendy, wear the Packers' green and yellow shirts, sweatshirts, anoraks and leather jackets. Manchester United have got nothing on this kind of market penetration.

There are other signs, too. At one of the only two cinemas in the downtown area, they are showing *A Time To Kill* on one screen and old Packers games on the other. And outside the Holiday Inn, the best hotel in town, three flags flutter: the Stars and Stripes, the Wisconsin State emblem and the Packers insignia.

Part of it, perhaps, is that the Packers are the town's only source of pride, the only thing that puts a timber-trading town dominated by paper mills, its packing company and its port on the map; the only thing that draws attention to it. It goes without saying that there are no other professional sports franchises here. The next best thing

after the Packers are minor league ice hockey games between Green Bay Gamblers and teams such as Fargo Ice Sharks.

But there is more to it than that. Somehow, the Packers have come to embody, not just to Green Bay

people but to Americans in general, a living ideal of the way sport used to be in this country.

They are an anachronism in American sport, a small-town club that has survived alongside giant concerns such as the Cowboys. They are the only professional sports team in the country that is publicly owned, run by the Packer Corporation which comprises about 200 shareholders, many from the surrounding area.

These things have guaranteed them their status as America's favourite underdog, the team forever trying, against the odds, to recapture the glorious days of 30 years ago, the days of the Ice Bowl here at Lambeau Field, when the Packers beat the Cowboys in the coldest game in National Football League history, the days when they and their legendary coach, Vince Lombardi, left their imprint on the nation forever by winning the first two Super Bowls.

Those days, of course, coincided

with the television explosion and the first glimpse many Americans had of professional football was of men fighting against the elements as well as their opponents. The first words from the coach they heard were not clichés, but the rousing moral exhortations of Lombardi.

"Unless a man believes in himself," Lombardi said, "and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it, his mind, his body and his heart, what is his life worth to him?" After he died, they named the Super Bowl trophy after him for speeches like that.

Since Lombardi left in 1969, the Packers have never had another realistic shot at winning the Super Bowl, but this year it might be their time. Last week television news crews descended en masse on Green Bay, all wanting to explore the Packer phenomenon.

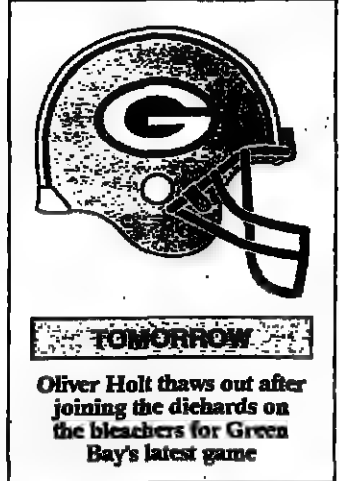
They were told little snippets about the peculiarities of life in the frozen north, where parts of the Bay are already thick with ice. There are so few African-Ameri-

cans in the community, the coach, Mike Holmgren said, that a barber is hired to come up from Milwaukee once a week to cut the hair of the black players who make up about half the team.

Twice a week, "soul food" like yams, fried chicken, chitlins and greens is flown in to make the players feel more at home. A Director of Family Programs has also been appointed to try to make it easier for new players to settle in.

although one cannot help feeling it is so isolated here. It is the type of place that would make Emerson's wife embrace Middlesbrough with open arms.

The players, almost to a man, say they love it here, that the local people have showed them nothing but kindness and affection, that the lack of distractions has brought them all closer together and kept them out of trouble. "If people need a larger place, a New York City type of place," Holmgren said, "then Green Bay is not for them." Maybe not, but it is still a cheese head's idea of heaven.



Oliver Holt thaws out after joining the diehards on the bleachers for Green Bay's latest game

## CYCLING

# Ball pursues initial steps to distinction

BY PETER BRYAN

THEY share the same initials and Chris Ball is hoping that, one day, he will emulate Chris Boardman, Britain's pursuit world champion and record-holder. Like his idol, Ball made a speedy start to his racing career as a junior. He set a British record for 25 miles in 1992 and also won the national track pursuit championship that year.

He has already been dubbed "CB2" but maintains that if he can win the British pursuit title, then target the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, he will be happy.

This year, after not competing for most of 1995 because of a torn Achilles tendon, Ball has been able again to show the promise of his potential. He was in the winning Harlow Velodrome squad that took the national team pursuit title and on Saturday, representing London, he had an outstanding pursuit victory in the Key 103 Euroleague in Manchester.

Five riders started 50 metres apart on the 250-metre track and Ball and Ronny Lauke, of Dortmund, made short work of catching their Amsterdam, Manchester and Cardiff opponents. In the last circuit of the 12-lap race, Ball closed to

within 15 metres of the German to win with a fast time of 3min 27.73sec. "I was easing the pace because there were other events for me later on the programme," he said.

Ball's victory gave London third place overall in the competition, but Dortmund, with 36 points, and Amsterdam, on 30, were convincingly superior squads.

The availability of Britain's first permanent indoor track has taught the 22-year-old Ball a lot. To compete regularly throughout a 12-month season, he will need what he calls "recovery breaks" which he plans after the national championships next year and other leading events, including the first five Premier Calendar road races.

Roger Hammond added the South of England cyclo-cross championship at Dover yesterday to the London Open title he won last week, dominating the ten-mile race from the start. He finished 1min 55sec ahead of Andrew Taylor, with Brian Curtis a further 30 seconds behind.

Matthew Guy retained his Midlands title over 14 miles at Derby, beating Dean Barnett and Steve Knight, champion on six previous occasions.



Seeing is believing for Gladishiva at Vail and she duly celebrates her unexpected super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Ed Andriesski

# Gladishiva again favoured by late start

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN THE most surprising event of the still-young World Cup season, Svetlana Gladishiva, of Russia, raced from far back in the pack at Vail, Colorado, on Saturday afternoon to win a women's super giant slalom and claim the first victory in her ten-year career. Starting 32nd, Gladishiva, 25, from Livov, recorded 1min 17.76sec to snatch victory from Pernilla Wiberg, from Sweden, who already had accepted congratulations for what seemed like being her second victory of the winter in the discipline.

Wiberg settled for second place in 1min 17.97sec, while Carole Montillet, of France, another late starter at 29th, claimed third in 1min 18.11sec. Katja

Seizinger, of Germany, the overall World Cup leader, finished ninth, her worst result of the season, but leads Wiberg in the overall standings, 414pts to 353pts.

"I can't believe I won," a beaming Gladishiva said at the finish, a moment after letting out a wild scream when she saw the scoreboard. Later — and calmer — she said: "Not bad, huh?"

After some 27 inches of fresh snow fell over the previous two days, the top racers scrambled to select advantageous starting positions. Gladishiva, though, who had little choice in when she would race, may have been helped by her late start, for the sun had left the course, making it colder and faster.

Although she had never finished higher than thirteenth in a World Cup super giant slalom, she had a precedent of late-start success in the event. At the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, in 1994, she took the silver medal after starting 35th.

Gladishiva surprised nobody more than herself. "I didn't expect even to do well and I never had the feeling I was skiing so fast," she said of her run on a course that favoured downhill specialists.

Even after her apparent victory had disappeared, Wiberg was happy with her result and her strongest start in eight World Cup seasons. "In super-G, nothing is finished and the tradition of Vail is that the course holds, even improves," she said. "My goal is to win

the slalom championship. Anything after that is extra."

Like Gladishiva, Montillet was ecstatic with her result. "I expected nothing like this," she said.

The super giant slalom was the second stage of a unique double race day necessitated when a snowstorm pushed the downhill, scheduled for Friday, back a day. Renate Goetschl, of Austria, won the downhill event in the morning. Similarly, the World Cup season's opening men's super giant slalom was cancelled yesterday because of a heavy overnight snowfall and poor visibility at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia. The downhill was cancelled there on Saturday.

Weekend results, page 39

## IN BRIEF

# Hendry's path is blocked by Morgan

STEPHEN HENDRY will attempt to apply the finishing touches to another highly successful year at the German Open, which gets underway at the British Army base in Osnabruck this afternoon (Phil Yates writes).

As usual Hendry is the ante-post favourite to pocket the £40,000 first prize. In the last 16 Hendry, who also holds an impregnable lead at the head of the provisional world rankings, faces Darren Morgan, an opponent to whom he has lost only once in 13 meetings.

## Stojko's title

Ice Hockey: Elvis Stojko, the former world champion, of Canada, took the leading place in the free skating event to win the men's singles title for a second year running at the NHK Trophy figure skating competition in Kadoma, Japan yesterday. Stojko turned in a near-perfect performance in the free programme.

## Eagles swoop

Rugby League: Sheffield Eagles have signed Steve Edmed, the Australian prop, from North Queensland Cowboys. He spent nine years with Balmuir before joining the Cowboys for the 1996 season, was player of the year at the Townsville club and the players' choice as player of the year.

## Darragh happy

Equestrianism: Paul Darragh, of Ireland, took a big step towards the Volvo World Cup final next year when he won the European League qualifier in Seville. Riding Cera I, he clinched the eighth of 15 qualifiers with the fastest of three clear rounds.

## Record win

Rugby union: British Steel (Peebles) set a Welsh league points scoring record as they beat Ogmore Vale 131-5. They scored 21 tries in their Division 8A Central match — seven of them from Jason Lowndes, the centre.

## HOCKEY: PREMIER DIVISION LEADERS SUFFER SETBACKS AS FEMALE COUNTERPARTS AGREE TO JOIN FORCES

# Cannock draw small comfort Women vote to join with men

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK, Southgate and Old Loughtonians, the top three teams in the premier division, all suffered setbacks as the National League officially went into its winter recess yesterday. Cannock, however, regained the leadership, despite a 2-2 draw with Guildford.

Southgate lost 2-1 away to Teddington, who profited from an increased work rate in the second half. The Southgate defence had earlier lost Duthie, who suffered a shoulder injury in a collision and was taken to hospital.

Gibbons, a former Teddington player, had given Southgate the lead in the twelfth minute. Nicklin equalised from a short corner four minutes later, with the winning goal from Conway coming eight minutes from time.

Southgate saved the day for Cannock in their away match against Guildford. Jennings converted a short corner in the seventh minute to put Guildford in front, but the advantage was cancelled out three minutes later when Crutchley converted a penalty.

Results and tables ..... 39

Cannock will look for victory when they entertain Guildford the next day. Both are rearranged matches brought about by postponements.

Reading enjoyed a 2-2 away victory against Old Loughtonians in a hard fought match. Ashdown converted a short corner in the 22nd minute to put Reading in front, but Dover equalised in similar fashion four minutes later. Two quick goals — Pearn from open play, and Slay from a short corner — gave Reading a firm grip on the match. A confrontation between Morrison, of Old Loughtonians, and Ashdown led to both players being temporarily suspended, before Thompson reduced Reading's lead in the 57th minute. The result pushed Reading into third position behind Cannock and Southgate.

MONICA PICKERSGILL, president of the All-England Women's Hockey Association, admitted to a huge sense of relief after revealing that the AEWHA had followed their male counterparts in voting to dissolve the association and form a single governing body.

After the 84 per cent vote in favour by the men's Hockey Association on Wednesday, the AEWHA gained a 93.5 per cent mandate in their postal vote to ensure that the sport will move into the next century as the English Hockey Association. The existing bodies will dissolve on May 31 next year and the new association will be formed on June 1 1997, and be based at the new national stadium in Milton Keynes.

Pickersgill admitted that she was disappointed, but not surprised, that only 21 per cent of the membership had exer-

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

cised their voting rights on such a crucial issue, adding: "I still believe that the majority of women were very, very positive about what is at stake and, of course, some were a little sad about dissolving our association."

"I'm delighted that we made such a clear decision and feel excited that we can now move ahead and carry the game forward for the benefit of all those involved in English hockey."

The chief executive of the Hockey Association, Stephen Baines, said that forming one body would not only satisfy the International Hockey Federation's wish that countries either unite or have an umbrella union by the year 2000, but that the move also opened up the promise of extra funding from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

He said: "We'll be able to improve in numerous areas, but hopefully will also be able to expand the commercial department and begin signing up sponsors. We have the best facilities in the world from our national stadium right down to all the artificial surfaces at the clubs. The game couldn't be better placed for the future."

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JUDO

# Britain set to invest in new crop of talent

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH judo woke from its Olympic nightmare on Saturday. A new generation of talented young fighters began the arduous struggle towards the 2000 Games when they competed in the national championships in Bath.

The lessons of Atlanta have yet to be digested. An inquiry into why, after six consistently successful Olympics, Britain failed to win a judo medal this summer will be published later this month.

Colin McIver, the Scottish national coach, who chaired the investigation, said yesterday: "It will advocate radical changes. The system has not worked. However, it is important that rash decisions should not be made and it may take a few months for a proper system to be introduced."

Time is important. The Sports Council want to see proper planning for Lottery funding for individual competitors become available in March. There is little doubt that judo, and a large number of other Olympic sports, are going to benefit enormously from a properly-funded structure.

Young fighters, such as Winston Gordon, will be among the beneficiaries. Only 20, he climaxed an outstanding year, which has included a European junior bronze medal, by winning the middle-weights on Saturday with the dramatic leg throw that slammed Kevin Lynch on his back.

Gordon took the title in the absence of Ryan Birch, the former European champion, who, like most of the Olympic team, preferred to miss the event.

Most of those that did compete understandably were jaded. Julian Davies, a featherweight, who came second in the European championships, lost to Simon Moss, who looked a solid prospect.

The only member of the Atlanta team to win a title was the 32-year-old Joyce Heron, the Scottish bantamweight, who will provide proven ability for a new generation to pit their skills against.

"I'm not getting any younger but I still enjoy competing," Heron said. "However, I know fighting internationally is a different kettle of fish. I'll just take it as it comes."

Nevertheless, she was not the oldest competitor on Saturday. That was light heavyweight Terry Watt, who will be 50 this month. He exercises six times a week and battled through to seventh place.

He competed in the European championships in 1969. In 1972, he represented Ireland in the Olympics and won a bronze medal in the world universities championships. His continuing dedication was an example to everyone. As the Japanese, Hagakure Bushido, wrote: "There is no end to training. Once you begin to feel you are a master, you are no longer on the way you are to follow."

## Ayr pay dearly for early injury as Nottingham win ice hockey cup



Cupolo is denied by a desperate block from Robins, the Nottingham goaltender, as another Ayr attack crashes on the Sheffield ice. Photograph: Victoria Matthews

## Panthers play role of party animals

Christopher Irvine discovers supporters taking centre stage in a musical revival

In one sport at least, the Mexican Wave is old hat. Crowd participation in ice hockey is now a choreographed art form, sometimes more entertaining than the game itself. In that respect, its administrators need to get to grips with its miscreants. For example, Ryan Kimmus, Ayr's Canadian defenceman, was released by the Superleague to play in the final mid-way through a six-game league ban for attacking Hilton Ruggles, of Manchester Storm, but it was an astonishing, misguided decision and removed the option of making any immediate, enforceable disciplinary measures had the match on Saturday not been so good-tempered. Kimmus,

Unlike North America, it is sweat on the ice rather than blood that people want to see, even if Britain's game has not been spared the sport's darker side. In that respect, its administrators need to get to grips with its miscreants. For example, Ryan Kimmus, Ayr's Canadian defenceman, was released by the Superleague to play in the final mid-way through a six-game league ban for attacking Hilton Ruggles, of Manchester Storm, but it was an astonishing, misguided decision and removed the option of making any immediate, enforceable disciplinary measures had the match on Saturday not been so good-tempered. Kimmus,

was on his best behaviour and a total of three two-minute sin-binnings in an hour of high-speed collision represents, in ice hockey terms, a clean contest. As if it were possible, the game is speeding up, so perhaps the time to knock lumps from one another is diminishing as standards in a slimmed-down, eight-team Superleague increase. Improvements and the breaking down of all barriers to foreign players, who account for three-quarters of those playing

Nottingham are struggling in the Superleague, but when the imposing Derek Laxdal bore down on the unfortunate Sven Rampf, in the Ayr goal, the game was up after just 29 seconds. Two more goals slipped beneath Rampf in a disastrous first period before he succumbed to a groin strain. Colum Cavilla's net-minding improved matters, notwithstanding the illegal, side-footed fourth Nottingham goal by Greg Hadden. Kitted supporters tried to intimidate the Panthers' bench, but Jiri Lala's final score for Ayr was merely a gesture as time expired.

The jubilant Panthers, in celebration of their second Benson and Hedges title in three years, thumped down a jargon of Veuve Clicquot before answering questions. Mike Blaisdell, their coach, was not going to remind them about their match the next night. "We got a good game out of guys who had a slump lately," he said. "We were able to add depth to our line-up and we showed we're a different team to the one we've been the last few weeks."

The Ayr story is that of ice hockey in a nutshell, from bust to boom. It is not so long ago that rusting padlocks were removed from the Ayr Centrium. In three months, the Eagles have built an audience of more than 2,000 - bigger than Ayr United at the top of the Bell's Scottish League second division. Nonetheless, only false dawns outnumber the relapses of ice hockey in Britain, the glam-rock reformation being just the latest, although the outward signs are healthy.

In the tradition of sports dreamt up by Britons - a claim Canada, naturally, disputes - this country has been skating on thin ice since an Olympic Games gold medal in 1936. Yet Great Britain are two wins away from the final qualifying stages of a first Olympic appearance since 1948. No other national team could rely on such fervent support, provided the music is right. Late on Saturday, Ayr supporters could still muster a Macarena in defeat.

## Lynch may rue selection mistakes

By NORMAN DE MESSQUITA

AN ICE hockey coach probably makes more decisions in the course of one evening than the average cricket captain has to make in a month. The most crucial, as in cricket, often concerns who should be playing and Jim Lynch, of the Ayr Scottish Eagles, had such a choice to make before the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield on Saturday. He got it wrong.

His No 1 goaltender, Sven Rampf, had been in wonderful form, but had a niggling groin problem. Having to change direction quickly in

the first minute of the game, he tweaked the injury and Nottingham Panthers had the lead after only 29 seconds. A crazy deflection gave the Panthers a second goal in the twelfth minute, but although the Eagles pulled one back, it was 3-1 to Nottingham with only a quarter of the game gone and, two minutes from the end of the first period, Rampf, having been beaten by three of only ten shots he had faced, bowed to the inevitable.

His replacement, Colum Cavilla, could not have played much better and was named the Ayr man of the

match at the end of the evening, but not before he had conceded two goals. The first of these proved how high the odds were stacked against Ayr. Even without the advantage of video replay, used in the National Hockey League in North America but not in this country, it was clear to the television viewer that Greg Hadden kicked the puck into the net.

Lynch might also regret playing Alan Schuler, who had not appeared since breaking his jaw in the semi-final six weeks ago. Schuler seemed to have problems with the pace of the game and

it was his mistake that led to the third Nottingham goal, just when the Eagles seemed to be coming back into the game towards the end of the first period.

Jiri Lala did give Ayr some hope when he made the score 5-3 with more than 12 minutes remaining, but they could not find a way through the well-organised Nottingham defence again.

Thus Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, showed how good he is at preparing his team for an important one-off occasion. Now he is hoping to repeat such form in the league.

Results, page 39

NETBALL

## England seeking boost from youth

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SPORTING grazed knees and ponytails, English schoolgirls have played netball since the First World War and, superficially at least, the game today seems reassuringly similar.

In reality, though, the sport is adjusting to the demands of the 1990s and confronting a number of issues in the process. There is sexual equality, with males increasingly playing, particularly in primary schools. Then there is violence, with a proposal to introduce football-style red and yellow cards. There is even amateurism, with the England netball team theoretically eligible for national Lottery-funded subsistence grants of up to £28,000, which would enable the players to turn professional.

Perhaps more significantly, the wind of change is also gusting through the England squad as Liz Broomhead, the national coach, aims to improve the team's world ranking - the squad appears to have been stuck in fourth place for ever.

Moving forward, however, sometimes entails a step back and this is how the recent 3-0 Test series defeat to a touring Jamaica side is being seen at Jamaica House, the game's Herfordshire base. That series saw the senior debuts of five players promoted from

the Under-21s: Chantal Mortimer, a student at Cambridge University, as goalkeeper; Amanda Newton, a London sports shop assistant, at goal defence; Tracey Neville, the sister of Gary and Philip, the Manchester United footballers and a trainee primary school teacher, at goal attack; Lisa Stanley, a Sainsbury's checkout girl in Sunderland, at goal shooter; and Helen Lonsdale, a student at Salford University, at wing attack.

That quintet not only reflect the cross-section of women that play netball, they were also all part of the England youth side that won bronze at the world youth championships in Toronto last summer.

Their progression through the ranks has been fostered by Fiona Murtagh, the new England captain, who has replaced Kendra Slawinski. The latter may have retired, but she is now coaching the next generation of international netballers.

Several such protégées were in action during the monthly Inter-Counties League fixtures on Saturday. The season is still young but England's leading county, Essex, are already favourites for the title and catered to a 78-37 victory against Nottinghamshire.

Results, page 39

## SAILING: OLYMPIC GAMES SILVER MEDAL-WINNER WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET OUTLINES HIS NEXT OBJECTIVES

### Ainslie decides to stay with Laser

Edward Gorman on a yachtsman who is engagingly modest about his success

FOUR months ago Ben Ainslie gave the profile of yacht racing in this country an immeasurable boost. At 19 he was the youngest ever member of a Great Britain sailing team. He went on to become the youngest ever medal-winner, capturing a silver after a thrilling dog-fight with the world No 1 in the Laser class, Robert Scheidt, of Brazil.

Ainslie single-handedly put the sport on the front pages and made the biggest impact in the television coverage of sailing at the Games, introducing yacht racing to many who have never followed it before, among them many young girls and boys determined to follow in his wake.

Alongside him at the medal ceremony in Savannah were Britain's other success story at the Olympic regatta, John Merricks and Ian Walker, who won silver in the 470s, but it was clear even then that Ainslie's precocious talent had made him the feature of the Games for British yachting.

Since coming back Ainslie has been given various achievement awards and has been in demand on the children's television circuit. He has been offered book contracts, and his name has been mentioned - with or without his permission - by all sorts of people in yachting who want the shine of his medal on their latest project.

Britain's fastest young

yachtsman has, however, got his feet firmly on the ground. Next season he has turned down the opportunity to join the crew of Merricks's Mumm 36 in the British Admiral's Cup team. He has turned down the chance to helm a Melges 24 on the European circuit, as well as numerous other sailing invitations.

Instead he is staying with his Laser, where his focus and ambition is as ferociously intense as at any time in the past 12 months. His first objective is to retain his European title next year in

Portugal and then win the world championships in Chile next October. That will mean another showdown with Scheidt, who has won the title twice already and is hunting a third. "It would be nice to beat him - I haven't beaten him before - it would be nice to sort that out," he said.

In the long run Ainslie's goal is gold in Lasers at the Sydney Games in 2000, which was his original plan last year, until he found himself going for Savannah after winning the national trials. Meanwhile he is back



Ainslie chewing over the offer of book contracts

at college in Winchester doing a couple of A-levels and he drives there from his parents' rented home in Lymington every day in a car given to him for a year by Audi.

He has also been doing the odd bit of sailing to keep his hand in. In two world championship qualifiers at Torquay and Hayling Island he won nine of the ten races he sailed. Then he went to Kuwait, where he won an invitational regatta with opposition including Peer Moberg, of Norway, and Hamish Pepper, of New Zealand. Ainslie's numbers were 4, 9, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1. His prize: \$10,000.

Ainslie is still a shy young man, but he is more confident than 12 months ago and he can cope with the pressure of being the great hope of British yachting. "Comments like that I just try not to take in," he said. "I know what I want to do and I know I have the ability to do it and that's all that matters."

Of his choices when the world is at his feet, he said: "I'd be easy to do the Admiral's Cup and Melges sailing and end up in a mess at the end. Maybe I would if I was 32 or something and running out of time. The Europeans and worlds are good realistic goals and going for Sydney will be the best thing for my sailing in the long term. It's quite hard to push the other opportunities away but it's the right thing to do or I'd end up doing a lot of things badly."

## French pair added to list of casualties

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TO FINISH first, first you have to finish: in no other yacht race is that more true than the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race. The weekend saw two more competitors fall by the wayside in the Roaring Forties, reducing the field, originally 15-strong, to ten.

The leading skipper, Christophe Auguin, of France, on *Geodis*, is 500 miles ahead of his nearest pursuer, but still has 15,000 miles to go to the finish. His compatriots, Yves Parlier, on *Aquitaine Innovations*, and Thierry Dubois, the youngest skipper in the race, on *Pour Amnesty International*.

Dubois was the first to report his retirement, when lying in eleventh position on Friday night, after he hit something drifting past the boat that broke his starboard rudder just below the hull.

"I am giving up, I haven't got the strength to do a third start," a dejected Dubois, who was 2,700 miles behind Auguin, said. He was on his second start after a similar collision in the Bay of Biscay had forced him to return to Les Sables D'Olonne shortly after the fleet set off on November 3.

Parlier had led the race on the way south through the Canaries until his forestry

broke. He managed to rig a replacement, and was holding third position - about 700 miles adrift of Auguin in the Indian Ocean - when he hit a growler, a small piece of ice that had broken away from an iceberg, and snapped his port rudder.

"I can't repair this on my own," he reported from a position about 850 miles southeast of Cape Town. He is now sailing to Albany, Australia, for repairs.

Parlier joins fellow French skipper Isabelle Autissier, who broke a rudder last week but has restarted from Cape Town, and Didier Moudougui, and the Hungarian, Nandor Fa, in being put out of the race.

Those still at sea include the two Britons, Pete Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, who is seventh, and Tony Bullimore, on *Exide Challenger*, who is tenth.

Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, is the new leader of the BT Global Challenge as the yachts continue westwards through the Southern Ocean, where conditions have moderated and brought welcome glimpses of the sun. Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, who led round Cape Horn, is second, with Mervyn Owen's *Global Teamwork* third.



## A black and white photograph of a dark, striped necktie hanging vertically against a light, textured background. The tie features diagonal stripes and is shown from the knot down to the tip. The background has a grainy, stippled appearance.

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By PETER BILLS

John Hall, the director of rugby and Philip de Glanville, the captain, found words that were to prove so motivational that Bath should package and sell them to businessmen as a proven formula. "The season is over for you, that's the reality," Bath's outplayed men were told. "If this match is lost



"Take a long hard look at yourselves. Do it for each other. Can you look your colleagues in the eye and say you have really given your best? Or can you do more? We think you can." The result of this one-way conversation out on a field with 8,000 people watching, some from a city bridge and others from windows of flats above the ground, was phenomenal. It would be too trite to say Harlequins fell away, unable to

Behind them, Guscott was the elegant rapier who teased and tor-

could miss the five nations' championship after suffering a fractured jaw in a clash of heads with Adedayo Adebayo at the Recreation Ground. He faces a minimum three-month lay-off. Adebayo left the field as a result of their 75th-minute collision, although he should be fit for the international match next Saturday against Argentina if selected.

## RUGBY UNION: FORWARD THINKING STIFLES NORTHAMPTON'S RUNNING GAME

# Townsend halted by Leicester's pack drill

By CHRISTOPHER J. LYNN

Reports continue to link Joel Stransky with Leicester. The

It was a confident move that set up Townsend up for opening score, a dropped goal. When Dean Richards raced 20 metres from a scrum, Dwyer said that a cattle prod must have been used to prompt the old warhorse. Richards strained his groin in the process, but his move led to Rob Liley's penalty goal.



Grayson and the older Liley exchanged penalties before the break. After another deliberate collapse, Liley slotted another to extend the lead to

It is Northampton's fate not to win at Leicester. They have managed it only once in 21 meetings. Grayson's second penalty put them a converted try away from levelling the scores but, as hard as they chased, Northampton could

**LEICESTER:** Leicester: Three: Back, Point.  
Conversions: R. Liley, J. Liley. Penalty  
goals: J. Liley (2), R. Liley. Northampton:  
Penalty goals: Grayson (2). Dropped goals:  
Townsend.

**LEICESTER:** J. Liley, B. Hadeney, W.  
Grayson, S. Potts, L. Lloyd, R. Liley, A.  
Hastley, G. Rowntree, R. Cockfield, D.  
Garforth, J. Wale, M. Johnson, R. Field, M.  
Buck, D. Richards. Richards replaced by E.  
Miller (71 min).

**NORTHAMPTON:** P. Grayson, N. Beal, B.  
Lyle, M. Akers, H. Thornicroft, G. Townsend,  
D. Roberts, J. Clarke, M. Hyrnes, J. J.  
Casal, J. Phillips, J. Chandler, A. Purney,  
T. Prober. Allen replaced by J. Hunter (75).  
Referee: A. Spradbury (Bristol).

**BY DAVID HANDS**  
HUGHY CORRESPONDENT

**SCORERS:** Sarason: T. Fly; Oliver: Porthall; Lynch: L4; Saker: T. McCarthy; Porthall: Gales; Mann: L4; 4. SALAD: Saker: T. McCarthy; K. Chesney; Buckton: S. Rovers; C. R. Wallace; M. Lynch; K. Bracken; A. Oliver; G. Bottoman; P. Wallace; G. Clark; P. Johns; A. Copsey; R. Hill; A. Diprose. P. Wallace temporarily replaced by C. Olney (20-28mm).

**5. GARDEN:** J. McIndoe; J. Dawkins; J. Boscawell; G. Saker; T. McCarthy; D. Morris; D. Winstanley; S. Diamond; A. Smith; D. O'Grady; R. McCarthy; D. Baldwin; A. Morris; D. Eskins. A. Morris temporarily replaced by N. Ashurst (43-52 and 28-31); Winstanley temporarily replaced by L. Ashurst (43-52).

**6. REFLECT:** J. Hargrave (South Africa).

## King shows his composure

**By BRYAN STILES**

With Jon Upton, the usually reliable regular kicker, having missed five out of six kicks at goal, King stepped up in response to a pre-match plan. A bemused King said later: "I

Wasp's would have been happier if the match had been played yesterday to avoid clashing with televised rugby. They claim they would have trebled their 2,500 gate. Bristol declined to switch as they had scheduled a game for tonight.

**SCORERS:** Wasps: Thres: King, White.  
**Conversion:** Ulton: Penally goal: King  
**Bristol:** Thres: Hull, Corkery. Penally goal:  
 Burke.

**WASPS J.** Ulton, P. Sampson, N  
 Greenstock, Y. Tuganovsk, S. Pinner, A King,  
 A Gomersall, D. Mabbay, S. Mitchell, W. Green,  
 D. Delaney, D. Cronin, A. Fleet, M. White, C.  
 Sharpe, Green replaced by J. Dunstan  
 (12min)

**BRISTOL:** P. Hull, D. Tuss, S. Martin, M  
 Brough, B. Breen, M. Pinner, R. Searcy,  
 S. Sharpe, M. Pagan, D. Hinton, D. Corkery, S.  
 Eagle, E. Ciesla, F. Filak, M. Corry. Corry  
 replaced by C. Barrow (41min)

**Referee:** A. Waters (Glasgow)

BY A CORRESPONDENT

"They will surprise a lot of people before the end of this season," Richard Hill, the director of rugby at Gloucester, said. "They have got a lot of talent there, but that was a good win for us because, if we had slipped up, they would have closed to within two points of us and we have got to go there after Christmas."

The game was played at breakneck speed. Irish were dangerous on the break; Gloucester preferred to use their kicking game, with Mapletoft turning the screw. He set up Gloucester's decisive second try with a towering kick to the foot of the Irish posts, and watched in delight as Martin Roberts collected the ball and crashed over. Mapletoft converted and produced a dropped goal in the last five minutes to put Gloucester clear.

"I feel the confidence comes into this side with every win," Hill said. "There is a belief they are not going to lose."

**SCORES:** Gloucester: Ties; Benton Roberts; Conversations: Mephisto (2) Penalties: 0-0; Drooped: 0-0; Mephisto, London Irish: Ties; Handerson (2); Penalty goals: Humphreys (3).

**GLOUCESTER:** C. Catling; M Peters; A. G. Jones; S. Williams; J. Williams; M. Mephisto, S. Benton; A. Wingo; P. Green; P. Vickery; P. Glenville; R. Pickard; D. Sims; N. S. Smith; S. C. Schumacher replaced by D. Caslos (40min).

**LONDON IRISH:** C. O'Shea, N. Woods; R. Henderson; S. Burns; J. Barber; D. Humphreys; J. Hoggan; J. O'Connell; M. O'Halloran; K. Connolly; J. Davidson; M. O'Kelly; E. Dawson; V. Costello. Humphreys replaced by D. Frawley.

**References:** B. Carroll (Yorkshire)

**Burke**

**Burke**

South Africa

Jenkins puts a







# Football maintains regional bias

By JOHN GOODBODY

JUST as Lancashire clubs dominate professional football, so their local schools are producing a disproportionate number of successful teams and players. The boys seem inspired by the proximity of clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, Everton and Blackburn Rovers who, between them, have won 14 of the last 20 Premiership and old first division titles.

Of the 22 boys who will attend the trials in January for the England Under-15 team, 13 come from the North West. In the Goodyear Under-16 trophy, this region has provided winners in four of the last eight years.

Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of the English Schools Football Association, says the North West is unusually strong at the moment. "Next year won't be quite the same, but this area does play a lot of competitive football, and the need to be competitive rubs off on the boys. It also helps that in places such as Manchester and Liverpool there isn't far to travel between the schools."

The North West has not been as dominant in the older age groups, however. In the

Schools results 39

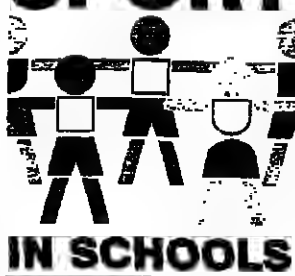
Snickers Under-19 trophy, which this year has been split into two competitions — one for the larger schools and sixth-form colleges, the other for the smaller schools — the region has had only five winners in the last 17 years.

It seems that the schools' success at producing footballers begins to work against them as the boys get older. "Many schools in the North West lose their outstanding older players to professional clubs. In other parts of the country, more boys stay on to continue their education rather than sign up," Berry said.

This factor rarely occurs in the independent sector, where schools from the North West have dominated the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for under-19s. The region has provided the winners of the tournament for independent schools in three of the four years since it began, and this season schools from the North West filled three of the four semi-final places.

Only Lancing, who last Wednesday beat Bury GS 1-0

## SPORT



IN SCHOOLS

away, with a goal from Stephen Bird, have disturbed the region's monopoly. Lancing now meet the King's School, Chester for a place in the final. The King's School won 1-0 at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn, the winners last season, who were missing three key players, including Ian Simpson, the captain. Rhys Owen scored the only goal after his teammate, Damien Testi, had earlier hit the bar.

The other semi-final will be between Manchester GS, who beat Shrewsbury on penalties, and Bolton, 2-0 winners over Bradford thanks to goals from James Freeborn and Dan Barrett.

Simon Rees, the director of sport at Bolton, said: "We are after a football mentality — young players who think as professional footballers and read the game, and don't just 'beetle' around."

"The North West is an area with a wealth of good football and the boys soak up the atmosphere. The proximity of the schools also means that they are vying with each other, both academically and at sport."

Bolton have also benefited from having Paul Mariner, the former England international, as technical director of football for two years before he went to the United States. He has now been succeeded by Mike Duxbury, the former Manchester United player.

Mark Dickson, the organiser of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, said that the day-schools in the North West tend to be committed to football. "They play football both winter terms, whereas most of the schools in the other parts of the country only play football before Christmas, switching to other sports in the new year."

"Many of the North West schools have boys who play all winter from the age of 11 until they are 17 or 18. In a tournament like this, it does make a difference."



Intense rivalry and the proximity of professional clubs has helped the North West to dominate schools football

## Kent contemplates athletic future

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

EVERY athlete went away with something, even if, for the majority, it was little more than a foil blanket and healthier lungs. The sight of so much foil at this time of year might be a turkey's nightmare, but on this cold, misty day, on a sports field in Leicester, it was an essential item for keeping warm after a hard run.

For the minority, there was a certificate of achievement, a reminder of the day that school made its muddy mark on the TSB English Schools Cross Country Cup finals. Just about worth the sacrifice

of passing up the chance to play football, David Kent, the winner of the junior boys' race, thought. He had to be asked twice, though, before answering.

Kent finished like a turkey being chased by a cook with a roll of tin foil, his sprint increasing his considerable margin over the pack. This was a local boy making good. Kent is from Leysland High, Countesthorpe, just five miles from the course at Wylliffe Community College.

Football is Kent's preferred sport, and he missed playing for South Leicestershire Schools to be running here, his school having progressed through two qualifying

rounds. It was, he said, his decision to run without the ball. "I wanted to do this because I did not want to let the team down," he said.

At 12, Kent is not yet at the age where hard decisions on sporting alternatives have to be taken. He, like Laura Puddle, built and named for cross country and the winner of the junior girls' race, are still competing in more than one sport at which they are gifted. Yet before they know it, they will be 15, like Andrew Sherman, the winner of the intermediate boys' event, who has just begun to commit to running, giving up his other sport, ice hockey.

Common sense is required to be the parent of a child with all-round sporting gifts. "The big problem is making sure he is not over-stretched," Bob Kent, David's father, said. "We look at his reactions, his programme and make sure he gets a couple of rest days. Any niggles and we make sure he pulls out of whatever he is committed to."

Kent Sr is in no rush for his son to accept an invitation to join the Leicester City Football Club school of excellence. "With the demands of athletics at an early age and the

commitment to training, it is becoming more difficult," he said, adding that there were not enough nights in the week to train for football and running.

The congestion has been eased for Puddle now that she boards at Millfield, where facilities for practically every sport are on site. "She used to do gymnastics at Heathrow, play hockey at Sunbury and we could not fit it all in," Kim Puddle, her mother, said.

Sherman, from The Ridgeway, Wroughton, expected to win and it was no surprise that the girls' intermediate title went to Louise Whitaker, from Weaverham High. The unexpected was delivered in the junior boys' team race, which was won by Killingworth, Newcastle.

The school had never appeared in the finals before. Alan Addison, its physical education teacher, came seeking merely a place in the top five, but he left with the cup, dated that, on this fiercely competitive day, the Wylliffe battleground had been turned into the Killingworth Fields.

Results, page 39

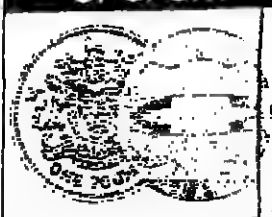
## Sunderland's flotation will test demand

Forget your Chelsea Villages, Loftus Roads and Preston North Ends, this week Sunderland Football Club will set a price for their shares and issue a full prospectus on their way to a listing on the main market of the Stock Exchange before Christmas.

This is the first full flotation of a football club, as opposed to an issue on the much less onerous Alternative Investment Market, since Manchester United floated 3½ years ago. Admittedly, Leeds United have become part of a public company through their purchase by Caspian Group, but that did not test investor demand in the way that Sunderland's fundraising of up to £12 million will be a true indication of the bubbling market confidence and could tempt the big boys, such as Newcastle United, Aston Villa and Everton, into the market sooner rather than later.

The City has some serious questions to ask of Sunderland before it is willing to give them the market value of some upwards of £40 million that Bob Murray, the chairman, is seeking. What about relegation? A real prospect, despite Sunderland recording their first away win, against

### THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Everton, last weekend. What about their accounting policy, under which Sunderland buy a player and hold on to him for a year before writing off the cost of the transfer fee? Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea write the value down through the life of his contract and Newcastle United write the whole value off immediately (which means this year they will be in the red, regardless of what else happens, because of the Alan Shearer deal). What about Murray's claim that, as 3.1 million people live in Tyne and Wear, and there are three Premiership clubs, there must be more than a million Sunderland fans? Has he not heard of St James' Park?

The prospectus will carry all sorts of interesting detail, such as the sponsorship income of more than £2 million, that Sunderland expect to get for naming their brand new ground and its four stands. It will contain the sort of projections of income and expenditure that are sadly lacking in any of Chelsea's financial documentation.

Recent movements in the thinly-traded shares of Chelsea

that will be held in separate, private company. Everton are also close to floating, Peter Johnson, the chairman and majority shareholder, said earlier this year that he did not want to float the club. Now, though, he is saying Goodison Park is too small and that he wants to build a new home for Everton. Expect news in the new year.

Aston Villa are also in the rumour mill for a float. Albert E. Sharp, their stock brokers, have been selling shares heavily in a series of auctions since the company's restructuring itself earlier this year. Doug Ellis, Villa chairman, said in August that company's long-term objective was a float. His horizon looks like it is shortening.

Two other smaller clubs are also expected to float soon. Sheffield United's deal with the Leisureware company, Conrad, should be coming to the fore within weeks and Leicester City is also hinting at an appearance on the market. On the pitch, Sunderland might have the look of a team going down, but in financial terms they are leading the way.

JASON NISS

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION — THE TIMES

# 6 FORTNUM & MASON HAMPERS TO BE WON



### HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 361 with the missing word from the following lines in *Love's Labour's Lost*:

At Christmas I no more desire a rose,  
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;  
But like of each thing that in season —



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Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Lines will stay open until midnight tonight. Normal TNL rules apply. Calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, The Times gives you the chance to win not six geese a-laying but a sumptuous hamper from Fortnum and Mason worth £250 each.

The hamper, presented in a wicker basket, includes the following items:

Blanc de Blancs Champagne;  
Red Burgundy 1992/94;  
Chablis, 1995;  
Late Bottled Vintage Port, 1990/91;  
Christmas Pudding 907g ceramic basin;  
Brandy Butter, 225g jar;  
Earl Grey Classic Tea,  
250g caddy;  
Mocha Coffee 227g caddy;  
Sevruga Caviar 28g jar;  
Caviar Serving Jar;  
Castaing Cassoulet 820g tin;  
Hare Paté with Pine Nuts 170g jar;  
Crustamor Langoustine Soup 800g jar;  
Cumberland Sauce 227g jar;  
Grain Mustard 200g jar;  
Strawberry Chutney 400g jar;  
Mixed Olives with Sun Dried Tomatoes 1kg kilner jar;  
Macadamia Nuts 200g jar;  
Highland Oatcakes 400g tin;  
Orange Marmalade with Whisky 340g jar;  
Victoria Plum Preserve 340g jar;  
Dorset Downland Honey 454g jar;  
Baby Pears with Calvados 600g jar;  
Stem Ginger Cake 680g tin;  
Huntley and Palmer Chocolate  
Oliver Biscuits 300g box;  
Six Gingerbread Men 250g box;  
Glacé Fruits Selection 250g box;  
Slimline Peppermint Creams 454g box.

CHANGING TIMES

### GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
\* denotes 3rd round

#### TODAY

FA Cup: Nottingham Forest v Newcastle (8.0)  
Auto Windscreens Shield  
Northern section  
First round

Chesham v Preston (7.45) ...

DR MARTENS CUP: Second round

Worcester City v FC Warrington

ISLE LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis

WYCHINGHAM: First division: Bognor Regis

WYCHINGHAM: First division: Bognor Regis

WYCHINGHAM: First division: Bognor Regis

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#### WEDNESDAY

VALDHAAL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield

Bell's Scottish League: Premier

division: Celtic v Kilmarnock; Dundee

United v Aberdeen; Motherwell v

Hearts; Rangers v St Johnstone

RAILWAY CUP: Pool 2A: London

Leeds v Newcastle

POOL 2B: Liverpool v Manchester

United

POOL 2C: Arsenal v Tottenham

Hotspur

POOL 2D: Chelsea v Everton

Wolves

POOL 2E: Birmingham v Aston

Villa

POOL 2F: Blackburn v Bolton

Sheff Wed

POOL 2G: Cardiff v Bristol

Leeds

POOL 2H: Ipswich v Norwich

Sheff Wed

POOL 2I: Luton v Reading

Sheff Wed

POOL 2J: Millwall v Charlton

Sheff Wed

POOL 2K: Notts County v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2L: Peterborough v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2M: Shrewsbury v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2N: Stockport v

Sheff Wed

Wolverhampton v Oxford. Second

division: Bournemouth v Millwall

Bury v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2O: Luton v Reading

Sheff Wed

POOL 2P: Millwall v Charlton

Sheff Wed

POOL 2Q: Notts County v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2R: Peterborough v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2S: Stockport v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2T: Shrewsbury v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2U: St Albans v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2V: Torquay v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2W: Truro v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2X: Weymouth v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2Y: Wokingham v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2Z: Wyke v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2AA: York v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2AB: York City v

Sheff Wed

POOL 2AC: York City v

Sheff Wed

Leicester City v Queens (at Syston),

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# Luso and First Island fly British flag



Victoria Walker takes the fitness-minded on a quick run through the aerobics-based classes now on offer.

# A high or low impact on your fitness

**A**erobics in all its many forms is one of the most popular and most accessible means of exercising today. From "keep fit" classes in a local village hall to membership of an exclusive club, there is a tremendous variety of activities and costs on offer.

Exercise classes in Britain (as opposed to dance classes, for example) can be traced back to the 1920s and 1930s, when the League of Health and Beauty promoted gentle exercises involving a lot of bending and stretching.

Using such dance-based movements as a way of keeping fit and toned became fashionable again, particularly in America, during the late 1970s. It was popularised by people such as Jane Fonda who swore by it as a means of staying young, lean and beautiful.

The Sports Council in Britain, however, became concerned with what it saw as a rise in sport-related injuries due to inadequate coaching. It consulted experts and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), and created in 1987 the first nationally-recognised qualification



in exercise to music. Since then, this RSA standard has been successfully used and is only now being superseded by National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for fitness instructors.

There is a vast array of studio-based exercise classes, often within one sports centre or club. Whether high or low impact, performed with weights or resistance bands, with or without a step or even a swimming pool, what they all have in common is a cardiovascular work-out, mainly to music, and a period of stretching.

Aerobics in its most basic form can be performed at either high or low impact. Walking is a low-impact exercise, running is high impact. One foot will always be on the floor in a low-impact move such as hamstring curls, but this may not be the case with a high-impact move, such as jumping jacks. As the name suggests, the impact or jarring action on the body will be more intense with a high-impact activity.

One of the most popular classes today is step aerobics. This involves stepping on and



Staying in trim at the Harbour Club. An exclusive venue such as this can cost £2,600 to join and £100 a month, but fitness classes at a village hall are on offer at £2.50 per hour.

off a specially designed, slip-proof plastic box, which can be adjusted in height to make the exercise easier or more difficult. Step aerobics can be performed at high or low impact, though most advanced classes tend to have a mixture.

It was created by American fitness instructor Gin Miller, in conjunction with her physiotherapist, as a development of the classic bench step and Harvard step test, as she attempted to keep fit while recovering from a knee injury.

It is becoming increasingly fashionable to flavour exercise classes with the moves of different genres of dance and music. Jazz, Funk, Salsa and even Line Dancing have all

been adapted at different times to the needs of exercise classes. Other sports, such as boxing, have also been adopted by some classes to add variety to the moves. Boxercise comprises cardiovascular exercise with shadow and punch-bag boxing.

The useful qualities of water as an exercise medium has also been recognised. Water provides excellent support for the body, as well as creating a natural resistance for muscles to work against. For these reasons, aquaerobics is an especially good way for the unfit to start an exercise programme.

Prices of exercise classes can vary enormously and generally reflect the quality of amenities

on offer as well as the exercises. My 7am step class took place at The Harbour Club. The rudeness of the early hour was inevitably softened by the luxury of the surroundings.

The Harbour Club is known to the majority of people who do not have membership as the venue where Diana, Princess of Wales goes to keep fit. The facilities are designed to pamper as much as exercise, with deep pile snow-white towels, gallons of moisturising cream and shower gel at every turn in the changing rooms.

The club offers a huge range of activities and even boasts a real tennis court, as well as its favourite — a bar and restaurant.

The range of activities and quality of amenities are reflected in the membership fees: the peak rate costs £2,600 to join and £100 per month thereafter.

In direct contrast, Karen Walsh's keep fit class at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Wal-

ton, Hampshire, is excellent value at £2.50 per hour. But, unlike a health club, she can only offer her own class and not a wide range of activities. The hall has no changing facilities or showers, and there is not a single luxury towel to be seen.

Other sports centres and clubs offer different types of membership packages. The Y in Manchester charges £320 for a year's membership or alternatively you can work out there with a day pass for £8.50. This price gives access to all of the exercise classes, including

step and aquaerobics, as well as a full range of general sports. The Porchester Centre offers membership of a gymnasium with cardiovascular machines and free weights, swimming pools and a studio, from between £15 and £37 a month. Single classes cost £4.05.

## TIPS

■ **FIND** a qualified and insured teacher — such as members of The Exercise Council. Qualifications may include a RSA/Sports Council certificate or an NVQ.

■ **MANY** clubs insist on fitness tests for new members and/or an injury questionnaire. Make sure you discuss your personal health and fitness with your teacher before starting a class.

■ **WEAR** comfortable clothing that allows the body to move easily, such as leotards or shorts and T-shirts. Always wear trainers, preferably with heel/ankle support and cushioned soles. Sports shoe stockists should give individual advice.

■ **THE** venue should be at a comfortable temperature and, ideally, have a semi-sprung floor. Mats should be available for floor work and any equipment used should be regularly checked.

■ **FIRST** aid equipment and a trained first aider should be on site.

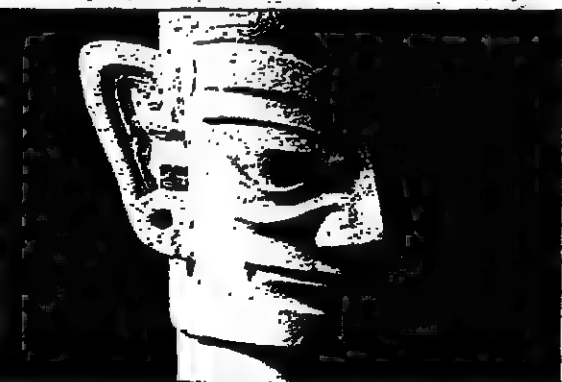
## ADDRESSES

- The Exercise Association, Unit 4, Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1 (0171-278 0811).
- The Harbour Club, Water Meadow Lane, London SW6 (0171-371 7700).
- Porchester Centre, Queensway, London W2 (0171-792 2919).
- The Y Club, Liverpool Rd, Manchester M3 4JR (0161-834 6035).
- Karen Walsh, Jubilee Hall, Little Shaw Lane, Bishop's Walton, Hampshire.

SCHOOLS SPORT

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The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

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**BRITISH MUSEUM**

## How to begin an exercise programme

### The dizzying array of moves

**A**rriving a little too early for my first aquaerobics class at the Porchester Centre, London, I went for a quick swim. Bad move. Aquaerobics is not for sissies. The combined exertions of swimming and running around a pool were almost too much for my feeble, flabby body to cope with.

Nevertheless, it is an excellent way for the unfit to begin an exercise programme. I was heartened to learn that I was not the most unfit member of the class. The all-female group consisted of all shapes, sizes and ages.

Water provides support as well as resistance for the body. Carol Jackson, who gave birth to her second child only six weeks ago, feels that aquaerobics is the best way for her to regain her figure.

"It's great working out in a pool because you don't feel so hot and sweaty and at the end of the class you just feel refreshed," she said.

Aquaerobics takes place in the shallow end of a pool and there is no swimming involved. It has adopted many of the jumping, kicking and stretching moves found in a conventional exercise class.

Although I lacked a little puff and an awful lot of grace, I managed to complete the main cardiovascular part of the workout without mishap. As the class wound down, however, and the pace slackened for stretching and cooling-down exercises, my body started to do its own thing.

Supported by a float under each arm, we simulated sit-ups and did leg stretches. Everyone else in the group

My body, however, seemed to be propelled around the pool with every move I made. I bumped into the wall and my classmates with alarming regularity.

Finally that bit ended and the swimmers among us paddled off to the deep end to simulate running — supported by floats. I was horrified to discover that my earlier problem with dynamics had reversed. People "jogged" happily past me while I remained stationary despite furiously moving my legs. I slunk back to the changing rooms determined to do better next time.

Many people choose to take a spot of exercise before going to work. Unable to comprehend it, let alone contemplate it, early morning exercise has never crossed my mind. Why I agreed to take part in a step-aerobics session at 7am is beyond me.

However, it is rather hard to sleep if someone keeps yelling "energy" at you — and energise I did. The fitness instructor guided us through various moves which were cunningly threaded together so that we were suddenly involved in complete routines that took us off on and around the step in a dizzying array of moves.

My wobbly legs were noticeably grateful as the pace slowed and we finally cooled down and stretched. But perhaps the greatest testimony to this session was that I felt full of energy all day. And as a tribute to the trainer, not a single muscle ached in the

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer had a choice of endplays on this hand.

Dealer West	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 10 9	♠ K 10 9 7 6 5 ♥ A Q ♦ A Q ♣ A 8 5	♠ Q ♥ J 8 6 5 ♦ K 10 9 8 ♣ Q 8 2 2

Contract: Six Spades by South.

Lead: four of hearts

South opened One Spade after three passes, North raised to Four Spades and South made a general try with Five Spades. North went on to Six Spades, though he should have passed Five Spades — his shape was unproductive, and he only had one control outside spades. The final contract was poor.

The declarer got off to a sound start when he put in dummy's queen of hearts on the opening lead. Good players make attacking leads against slams, and so West was more likely to lead from a king than a jack. As it happens, a trump lead was best for the defence on this occasion.

When the queen of hearts held, declarer drew trumps in one round and cashed the ace of hearts. He returned to hand with a trump and ruffed his last heart in dummy. Now he played off the ace and queen of diamonds. After taking the queen of diamonds East returned the queen of clubs. That is the correct card — if

East had played a low one, declarer would have no choice but to finesse against East's queen after West's jack had forced the king. By leading the queen East gave the declarer the losing option of playing him for an original holding of QJx. As the declarer had decided to play for split club honours he put on the ace and finessed against West's jack, to make the contract. His line succeeds whenever the club honours are split, about a 52 per cent chance.

There is a better line: after eliminating the trumps and hearts, play off three rounds of clubs. That makes whenever the king of diamonds is with East (50 per cent), and when the diamond king is with West but West has to win the third club. That second chance is clearly greater than the 2 per cent necessary to beat the other line.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

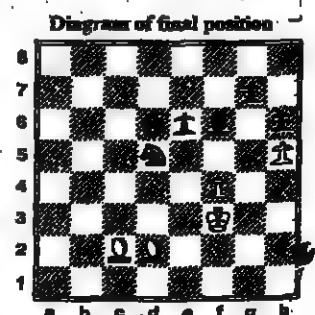
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Las Palmas preview

The Las Palmas tournament, which aspires to be the strongest in history, gets under way this week. The competitors are Kasparov, Karpov, Anand, Kramnik, Ivanchuk and Topalov, the world's top six ranked players. They will conduct a double round competition against each other. The Las Palmas tournament is lent added allure by virtue of the fact that it sees the first clash between Kasparov and Karpov since the start of 1994. Here is their last game, one on which Karpov, though Black, pressed for a win and, indeed, missed the extraordinary tactical possibility 13 ...

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Anatoly Karpov  
Linares 1994

Caro-Kann Defence	
1 e4	c6
2 d4	d5
3 Nc2	dxc4
4 Nc4	Nd7
5 Bc4	Ng5
6 Ng5	ex6
7 Qe2	Nb6
8 Bb3	h6
9 Nf3	g5
10 c3	g4
11 a3	Qc7
12 Ne5	exd4
13 exd4	ex4
14 Bc2	Bd7
15 Nxd7	Nxd7
16 Qd1	Bd6
17 Ne2	Nd6
18 Bc2	b6
19 Nc5	Nxc3
20 Bxc3	Nf6
21 Qc3	Nd5
22 Bc2	Ka7
23 Rc1	Qc4
24 Kc2	Phb8
25 g5	Qxd3+



### Chess for charity

The simultaneous display, where by a master or grandmaster takes on numerous opponents at one and the same time is a powerful tool for raising funds for charitable purposes.

On Saturday March 22, I will take on allcomers in a simulstun to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal which aims to raise £1 million for their children's intensive care unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital, tel: 0181-725 5096.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## By Philip Howard

**VITIATE**  
a. To spoil  
b. Full of vices  
c. School for religious novices

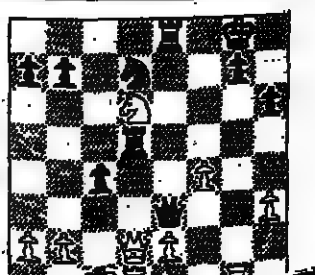
**FITCHW**  
a. A lace collar  
b. To dispraise

**CARBUNCLE**  
a. A car morgue  
b. An honorary uncle  
c. A red stone

**NEFANDOUS**  
a. Unspealable  
b. Neck-and-crop  
c. Inclined to weep

## By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sorokin — Jernellin, Elista 1996. 1 Qxc3 Rxd1+ and 1 Nxe8 Rxd2 are unattractive for White. How did he improve on these variations?









## Requests for county court hearing date

**Perry v Wong**  
**Sampson v Moon**

**Jones v Roe Shopfitting Ltd**  
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,  
Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice  
Auld and Sir Brian Neill  
(Judgment November 25)

In a county court action, to which the automatic directions regime applied, a request by the plaintiff for the fixing of a hearing date if made after the expiry of the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d) of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment) No 3 Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)):

1. Allowing an appeal by Robert Perry from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at St Helens County Court, had held that his personal injury action against the defendant, Kang Ho Wong, had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment) No 3 Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)).

2. Dismissing an appeal by Dave Moon from Judge Elyan-Morgan, who, sitting at Warrington County Court, had held that the personal injury action brought by the plaintiff, Gary Sampson, had not been automatically struck out under the rules.

3. Allowing an appeal by John Jones from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at Manchester County Court, had held that his personal injury action against Roe Shopfitting Ltd had been automatically struck out under the rules.

In each case the plaintiff, although not requesting a hearing date to be fixed within the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d), had made such a request within the 15-month period provided by rule 11(9). The defendant had applied to the court for a ruling that the action had been

struck out on the ground of non-compliance with the rules.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Graham Wells for Mr Perry; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Philip Grundy for Mr Sampson; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Sam Grodzinski for Mr Jones; Mr David Stockdale, QC, for Mr Wong, Mr Moon and Roe Shopfitting.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the plaintiffs' argument that a request made within the 15-month period was valid under the rule; that it would be offensive and unfair if an action were automatically struck out where a party had done precisely what the rule itself had provided; that, in particular, reliance on *Ashworth v MCKay Foods Ltd* [1996] 1 WLR 542 and *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* [1996] 1 WLR 536, the effect of decisions since *Rossin v British Steel plc* [1994] 1 WLR 729 was that a request within 15 months was effective and timely.

The defendants had submitted that paragraph (3)(d) was unambiguous and mandatory, imposing a duty on a plaintiff to make the request within six months; that nothing in the rules relaxed that requirement and that the proper approach was to construe paragraphs (3)(d) and (9) together so that a failure to make the request within six months of the plaintiff had to obtain the court's leave to proceed if he wished to apply for a hearing date before the expiry of the 15-month period; and that decisions on Order 17, rule 11 had emphasised that importance of compliance with the requirement to seek a hearing date within six months.

His Lordship referred to the defendants' further submission, made in particular reliance on *Metrolinvest v British Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd* [1985] 1 WLR 513, 520, that a failure to comply with paragraph (3)(d) was an irregularity which, while not nullifying the proceedings, had to be cured.

His Lordship said that it was

important at the outset to recognise that Order 17, rule 11 introduced a new and, as the court had held in the past, draconian regime, with the obvious intention of attempting to eliminate the delays which had disfigured the conduct of litigation, particularly personal injury cases, in the past. Given that the regime was new and to some extent revolutionary there was limited value in earlier authorities arising in different contexts.

It was furthermore clear that the rules had to be construed so as to give effect to the intention of the rule-maker. Here the object was to induce greater urgency in the conduct of civil litigation.

It was important that the court should be slow to erect interlocking barriers or obstacles which would increase the expense and delay which parties would encounter in seeking to overcome or circumvent them and which would serve no valuable procedural purpose.

The court had plainly, in the earlier cases, assumed that a request for a hearing date, if made within the 15-month period, was sufficient to save a plaintiff from the sanction provided in rule 11(9); see *Ashworth* (at p550).

It was correct, as the defendants had pointed out, that the present point had not been argued either in the *Ashworth* case or in other similar cases. Veterans of the litigation would be surprised to learn that any point capable of being argued had not been argued in the past. If the court had thought there was any merit in the present point it would have been likely to have taken it itself.

In his Lordship's view, the assumption which had animated both counsel and the court on those occasions was correct and the court had indeed assumed, with justification, that a request made within 15 months sufficed, despite the fact that there had been no application for an extension.

The wording of the rule supported that approach. It was clear that the sanction applied to failure

to make a request within the 15-month period. There was some incoherence in the language of rule 11(9) in that it referred to a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) within 15 months when a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) had to be made within six months.

The reconciliation of that problem was that the reference in paragraph (9) was to a request of the nature specified in (3)(d) and not obviously to a request made within the six-month time limit. The rule clearly envisaged that a request might be made at any time up to the 15-month period.

That did not mean that rule 11(3)(d) was without effect, that it enabled a defendant to make an appropriate application for the fixing of a timeable with the consequence of a cost penalty to the plaintiff, or his advisers.

It also enabled the court to summon the parties and impose a procedural timetable on them which the Court of Appeal would expect increasingly to do.

A request for a hearing date after six months and before the 15-month deadline did not import a retrospective application for an extension. The request for a hearing date had to be made to the proper officer.

Since the fixing of a hearing date was an act of a formal or administrative character which was not by statute the responsibility of the district judge, the "proper officer" was to be interpreted by virtue of Order 1, rule 3 to mean the chief clerk or any other officer of the court acting on his behalf.

So defined, the proper officer would not be a suitable person to whom to address an application calling for the exercise of discretion. The inference was that if the plaintiff requested the proper officer to fix a hearing date after the expiry of the six-month period, but before the expiry of the 15-month period, the proper officer would fix the date.

That was an automatic step not involving the exercise of discretion. It might be open to a defendant to apply to set that order aside on the

ground, for example, that the plaintiff had ulterior motives capable of being regarded as an abuse of process; see *Ashworth* (at p549).

*Metrolinvest* had been a strong case on the merits. It was however clear that procedural irregularities varied greatly in significance and his Lordship would question whether one rule was applicable to all such irregularities.

That was the conclusion reached by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, in *Chapman v Chapman* [1985] 1 WLR 599 and his Lordship agreed with it.

In any event it was clear on the construction of Order 17, rule 11 which in effect established a code, that the rule laid down, if such it was, by Lord Justice Cuming, could not apply to non-compliance with Order 17, rule 11(3)(d).

Accordingly on the construction of the rules and consistently with previous authority a request made after six months and before the expiry of the 15-month period was validly made even though there had been no preceding request for an extension of the six-month time limit.

In the first action, the recorder had concluded that where no request had been made within the six-month period the plaintiff had to obtain an extension even if he made a request within the 15-month period; that that request implied or imported within it an application for an extension which he determined against the plaintiff on the tests laid down in the *Rossin* case.

It followed from his Lordship's judgment that the recorder had been wrong.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir Brian Neill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for J. Keith Park & Co, Merseyside; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Frank Howarth, Warrington; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Davies Wallis Foyner, Manchester.

## Resisting application to stay proceedings

**Trustee of the property of Andrews v Brock Builders (Kessingland) Ltd**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Brooke  
(Judgment November 21)

A plaintiff who relied on financial difficulties to resist an application to stay proceedings to give effect to an arbitration agreement had to show that he had a reasonable prospect of establishing that the defendant's breach of contract had caused his inability to arbitrate.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, the trustee in bankruptcy of Mr Alan Andrews, against the decision of Judge Bowsher, QC, sitting as an Official Referee on December 8, 1994, staying his action against the defendant, Brock Builders (Kessingland) Ltd, pursuant to section 4 of the Arbitration Act 1950 on the ground that the proceedings related to matters agreed by the parties to be referred to arbitration.

Mr Andrews had been employed by the defendant under a subcontract which contained a clause providing that all disputes to be referred to arbitration. In June 1990 the defendant terminated the subcontract. Subsequently, Mr Andrews was made bankrupt. His trustee in bankruptcy was granted legal aid and started proceedings against the defendant for breach of contract.

Mr Sinclair Christie for the plaintiff; Mr Christopher Smyth for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case for a stay of the proceedings against the defendant was, on its face, simple. There was an arbitration clause in the agreement and there was no reason why a stay of proceedings should not be granted.

The plaintiff resisted the stay on the ground that if the defendant had not wrongfully terminated Mr Andrews' employment it was unlikely that he would have been sued. The plaintiff had the benefit of a legal aid certificate which enabled him to fund the proceedings but he was unable to still the plaintiff's claim.

Section 4 of the Arbitration Act 1950 indicated that effect should be given to all agreements to refer disputes to arbitration unless there was a sufficient reason for refusing a stay.

The mere fact of a plaintiff's poverty which would have rendered it financially impossible for

him to go to arbitration, was not per se a sufficient ground upon which the court could refuse a stay.

However, if a breach of the agreement by a defendant resulted in the plaintiff being unable to prosecute arbitration proceedings that could amount to a sufficient reason to refuse a stay.

**Standard of proof**

The first matter for decision was whether a plaintiff, when seeking to rebut a defendant's application for a stay, owed evidence on the balance of probabilities that it was the defendant's breach of contract that caused his inability to arbitrate, or was it sufficient that there was a triable issue, alternatively a real prospect of success, or, as the judge held, did he have to show a real probability that it was the defendant's breach that had caused his difficulties?

In *Fakes v Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd* [1973] QB 436 the majority of the Court of Appeal rejected the standard of a strong prima facie case.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, was prepared to accept as sufficient that there was a triable issue, whereas Sir Gordon Willmer required some reasonable probability that a change might be well founded. In *Goodman v Winchester and Alton Railway plc* [1985] 1 WLR 141 it seemed that Lord Justice Griffiths adopted the normal civil standard of proof.

The authorities did not demonstrate a consistent approach. It was therefore not surprising that the plaintiff submitted that the court should adopt the lowest standard of proof and the defendant urged the normal civil standard of proof.

The court saw the force in that latter submission, based as it was on the submission that when the parties had agreed a particular way of dispute resolution, a court should not endorse a deviation without clear evidence to support the grounds put forward.

However, to adopt that standard would require a court to carry out a mini-trial to decide whether the plaintiff's claim was probably going to succeed. That the court believed would be wrong. The court itself did not believe that it was to be the appropriate standard.

The court would also reject the test of "a serious issue to be tried" as being too low and adopt the test suggested by Sir Gordon Willmer in *Fakes* which he expressed as "some reasonable probability that the charges may be well founded".

Taking those words as a whole, the court believed that the test proposed, which the court believed to be the correct one, was that the plaintiff had to show a reasonable prospect of success.

The judge, relying on the words of Lord Justice Griffiths in *Goodman* had understood that a plaintiff had to establish a reasonable probability of success.

Although that was understandable, the court believed his approach was wrong. It was therefore necessary to look again at the facts and, if appropriate, exercise the discretion given by section 4 of the Act.

**Application of standard of proof as the facts**

The defendant submitted that upon the evidence the plaintiff had not established to the required standard of proof that the alleged breaches of contract caused the plaintiff's inability to arbitrate. The court believed that submission had merit. The highest it was put by the plaintiff was that if the defendant had not wrongfully terminated Mr Andrews' employment it was unlikely he would have been made bankrupt.

There was no evidence that even if Mr Andrews had not been made bankrupt he would have had funds to conduct arbitration proceedings. Thus any inability of the plaintiff to go to arbitration did not appear to have been caused by the actions or inactions of the defendant.

It followed that the plaintiff had not established that an exceptional circumstance arose such as to provide a sufficient reason for refusing a stay.

**Discretion**

Section 4 of the 1950 Act gave the court a discretion to grant a stay. It by no means followed that even if the court had come to the conclusion that there was a reason why the dispute should not be referred to arbitration, namely that the inability of Mr Andrews to carry on arbitration proceedings had been caused by the defendant's actions or inactions of the defendant, it would not have been right to grant a stay. That would have been only one of the factors to be taken into account.

The court had no doubt that it had been Mr Andrews' intention to institute arbitration proceedings. It was not until the plaintiff became insolvent and legal aid was obtained that the position changed.

In essence the action was being used to recover money owed by Mr Andrews to his creditors. If the claim was a good one then it could be referred to arbitration and funded by the creditors who would be the recipients of the damages.

Taking those matters into account the court would have exercised its discretion so as to grant a stay.

Solicitors: Nicholson, Lowes, Meares, Hobbs & Durrant, Lowestoft.

## Duty of employer to ensure safety of employees

**Health and Safety Executive v Spindle Select Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker  
(Judgment November 28)

In the context of criminal proceedings, the duties of an employer to ensure the safety of his employees were comprehensive and all formed part of one activity.

The general duty was laid down by section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The matters referred to in section 2(2) were no more than examples of that general duty to which there was no need to refer specifically in the information and which, in any event, were not exclusive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved

judgment allowing an appeal by the Health and Safety Executive by way of case stated against the dismissal on April 15, 1996, by Ouseway Justices of an information preferred against Spindle Select Ltd under section 2 of the 1974 Act in respect of an accident to their employee, Mr Neil Peever.

The information stated that Spindle Select, being employers, failed to discharge the duty imposed by section 2(1) of the 1974 Act in that they did not ensure so far as was reasonably practicable the safety of their employees and in particular Mr Peever, while at work using a new semi-automatic post turning machine in their workshop whereby they were guilty of an offence as provided by section 3(1) and liable to a penalty

as provided by section 34(A), as inserted by section 4 of the Offshore Safety Act 1992.

Mr Dominic Grieve for the prosecutors; Mr Peter Cowan for the company.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the information was preferred after Mr Peever had his right hand severed after coming into contact with the rotating cutters of a wood turning machine. The justices dismissed that information on the company's application before any evidence was adduced.

The grounds of that application were that (i) the information failed to give reasonable information as to the nature of the charge and (ii) that if the prosecutor sought to give further particulars by alleging both a failure to guard the machine

and a failure to train Mr Peever adequately, the information would then be duplicitous as alleging two separate offences.

The court was informed by Mr Grieve, counsel for the prosecution, that it was their practice, and also his experience, for such an information to charge an offence contrary to section 2(1) and not to prosecute under the latter provisions of section 2(2).

Mr Grieve submitted that section 2(1) provided the foundation for the offence and that section 2(2) merely provided examples of the ways in which the offence might be committed. It was the practice to provide advance information of the way in which the prosecution got their case and to provide witness statements.

Mr Grieve disagreed with the suggestion that if full particulars had been contained in the information it would have been duplicitous. He would not have referred to any of the paragraphs contained in section 2(2) but to a particular fault. That would not have been duplicitous since he would have been referring to one activity, one risk, that gave rise to one accident and therefore to one information.

Mr Cowan submitted that the justices were right to conclude that the information was defective. In his Lordship's opinion the charge should be founded on section 2(1), as the section creating the offence and, provided sufficient particulars were given, that was the proper course to take.

It was not necessary to refer in terms even if applicable, to any of the paragraphs of section 2(2), or to the subsection itself. Even if the information itself, or the particulars which accompanied it, referred to more than one aspect of the overall duty, that would not make the information bad for duplicity.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed, the justices' decision quashed and the case remitted to the justices with a direction to continue the hearing.

Lord Justice Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Health and Safety Executive; Weighmans, Liverpool.

## No rent set-off against benefit

**Haringey London Borough Council v Cother**

An alleged underpayment of rent allowances could not be set off against a claim for overpayment of housing benefit because there was no private law right of action in relation to payment of housing benefit.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery) so held on November 21 in allowing an appeal by Haringey London Borough Council, dismissing a cross-appeal by the defendant landlord, Michael Cother, against a decision of Judge

Tibber sitting at Edmonton County Court and in striking out the defendant's counterclaim in its entirety.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that Parliament had not intended that the statutory rights conferred by the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1977), as amended, should confer on claimants or any other person, such as a landlord, a private law right of action for breach of duty in relation to the payment of housing benefit. The regulations provided a de-

tailed self-contained and exhaustive procedure for enforcing the duties of the appropriate local authority in relation to the determination and payment of housing benefit. Until a determination was made under that procedure there was no duty on the appropriate authority to make a payment of housing benefit.

If there was any dissatisfaction with a determination which had been made the appropriate procedure for challenging that determination was that set down in the regulations or, failing that, by judicial review and not by way of private law action for breach of statutory duty.

## European Law Report

### Home carer not employed person if wife

**Züchner v Handelskramkassen (Ersatzkasse) Bremen**

Case C-77/95  
Before L. Sjövan, President of the Fifth Chamber and Judges C. Guldemann, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Puissechot and P. Jann  
Advocate General D. Ruiz-Jarabo Colomer  
(Opinion July 11)

(Judgment November 7)  
A woman who provided home care for her husband after he became paraplegic in an accident, and was not engaged in an occupational activity or seeking employment when she began doing so, was not part of the "working population" for the purposes of the Community social security equal treatment directive.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Hanseatisches Oberlandesgericht (Higher Regional Court), Bremen, for a preliminary ruling on a question about the interpretation of Council Directive 79/183/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L624).

The plaintiff's husband, Mr Züchner, who had previously been engaged in an occupational activity, became paraplegic following an accident and required assistance from another person in the form of therapeutic treatment and of general care and nursing. The plaintiff provided that care in its entirety.

Mr Züchner's sickness insurance fund provided financial assistance for general care and nursing, but refused assistance so far as therapeutic assistance was concerned, relying on a provision of the German Social Welfare Code whereby entitlement to home nursing would arise only where there was no person living in the household who could assist and care for the patient to the extent necessary.

The plaintiff considered that provision to be discriminatory and contrary to Directive 79/183.

In proceedings concerning the plaintiff's application for legal aid to enable her to bring an action for damages against the sickness insurance fund, the question arose whether the plaintiff, as the wife of an insured person who was in need of care, belonged to the working population within the meaning of article 2 of the directive.

Article 2 provided: "This directive shall apply to working population - including self-employed persons, workers and self-employed persons whose activity is interrupted by illness, accident or involuntary unemployment and persons seeking employment - and to retired or invalid workers and self-employed persons."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held: The plaintiff did not deny that she was not engaged in an occupational activity when her husband suffered his accident, but she contended that she formed part of the working population as she provided care for which she had to undergo training and which, by virtue of its nature and scope, constituted assimilated to an occupational activity.

If she did not provide such care, it would have to be provided by someone else against payment or in a hospital.

The defendant and the German and United Kingdom Governments considered, on the other hand, that the plaintiff was not a member of the working population as she was not engaged in an occupational activity before she started looking after her husband. Moreover, according to the United Kingdom, a carer could not be regarded as a member of the working population merely because of the extent of the care provided.

Although the concept of working population in article 2 was very wide, the directive did not apply to people who were not working or seeking work, or to persons whose occupation or efforts to find work were not interrupted by one of the risks referred to in article 3 of the directive; see for example, Case C-31/90 *Johnson v Chief Adjudication Officer* [1993] QJ 252; [1991]

ECR I-3723, paragraph 20. Also, a person who had given up his or her occupational activity in order to attend to the upbringing of his or her children did not fall within the scope of the directive; see *Johnson* paragraph 19.

It followed that the term "activity" referred to in relation to the expression "working population" in article 2 could be construed only as referring to the very least to an economic activity, that is, an activity undertaken in return for remuneration in the broad sense.

It had to be recognised that a person might be obliged to have recourse to the services of another when he was unable or no longer able to perform a particular activity himself, whether it was the education of children, housework, management of private property or mere incidents of daily life.

In the main, such activities called for a degree of competence, were of a certain scope, and had to be provided by an outsider in return for remuneration if there was no one else, whether or not a member of the family, who would do so without payment.

It followed that an interpretation purporting to include within the concept of working population a member of a family who, without payment, undertook an activity for the benefit of another member of the family on the ground that such activity called for a degree of competence, was of a particular nature of scope or would have to be provided by an outsider in return for remuneration if the member of the family in question did not provide it, would have the effect of indefinitely extending the scope of the directive, whereas the purpose of article 2 was precisely to delimit that scope.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

Article 2 of Directive 79/183 is to be interpreted as not covering a person who undertook, without payment, an activity for the care of his or her handicapped spouse, whatever the extent of that activity and the competence required in order to perform it, where the person in question did not, in order to do so, abandon an occupational activity or interrupt efforts to find employment.

The court said that the Court of First Instance was fully entitled to base its decision solely on the existence of a single economic unit in order to rule on the application of article 85(1) to the Parker group.

However, the unilateral conduct in question could fall under article 86 of the Treaty if the conditions for its application, as laid down in that article, were fulfilled.

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[illegible]

08	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
54	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
64	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
74	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
84	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
94	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
04	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
14	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
24	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
34	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
44	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
54	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
64	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
74	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
84	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
94	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
04	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
14	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
24	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
34	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
44	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
54	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
64	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
74	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
84	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
94	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
04	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
14	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
24	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
34	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
44	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
54	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
64	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
74	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
84	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
94	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
04	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
14	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
24	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
34	16:10	Teleshop	16:10-17:00	21	16:10	21
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## LEGAL &amp; PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

0171-782 7344

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT  
SESSION 1996-97

## LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- 1) To strengthen London borough councils' powers in relation to the prevention, investigation and enforcement of offences in relation to the claiming of benefits and other offences of fraud and to allow councils to share information and to request information from other bodies;
- 2) To make further provision in relation to the enforcement of parking controls;
- 3) To make further provision for increased powers of enforcement by London borough councils in relation to the control of waste on land and in particular powers of enforcement over private streets and alleyways and other open land;
- 4) To make provision for London borough councils to assist film makers in the making of films including the closure of streets and open spaces, to enable councils to allow London boroughs to charge fees for their costs of enforcing conditions of consent for distribution of film material under the Act and for the use of any of their property and to require notice to be given of filming on certain land;
- 5) To make provision amending various licensing enactments relating to music and entertainment, theatres, cinemas, night clubs, new beer premises, special temporary premises, sex establishments and door supervision, to provide that licensing conditions imposed by London boroughs should prevail over the conditions of fire certificates and to amend the London Local Authorities Act 1996 to allow enforcement of fire conditions to be carried out only against the owner of a vehicle;
- 6) To make provision for the licensing of busking;
- 7) To make provision for the establishment of business improvement districts and the making of charges for improvements where a requisite majority of businesses vote in favour of a business improvement district being established;
- 8) To amend the London Regional Transport Act 1984 to enable the existing concessionary fares scheme to continue in circumstances where the route of the service would have come into operation and to remove any obligation on London borough councils to replace concessionary permits, to make provision for the control of insurance caused by blots, to enable London boroughs to replace the police authority in respect of the control of school pedestrian crossings, to provide that London boroughs are not placed under an obligation to take over maintenance and control of closed churchyards unless certain conditions are complied with beforehand, to make provision relating to the control of school pedestrian crossings, to alter the application of section 31 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1921 to provide that employees of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority be entitled to compensation for loss of office and to amend the London Local Authorities Act 1996 to allow enforcement of fire conditions to be carried out only against the owner of a vehicle.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Clements at 1 North Street, Hammersmith, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsgate, Essex, CM12 3NY and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1E 6QP  
City Solicitor

## SCHEDULE

- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BN  
London Borough of Barking, Civic Centre, Barking, Essex, RM10 7BN  
London Borough of Brent, Civic Centre, Brent Town Hall, Uxley Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9JL  
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3JH  
London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9LP  
London Borough of Croydon, Civic Centre, Toller House, Toller House, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3JG  
London Borough of Ealing, Civic Centre, Civic House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL  
London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 61, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, BN1 3JY  
London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PW  
London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA  
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Town Hall, 137, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JL  
London Borough of Haringey, Civic Centre, High Road, London, N22 4LE  
London Borough of Harrow, PO Box 2, Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3JH  
London Borough of Havering, Civic Centre, Havering Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BD  
London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3JH  
London Borough of Hounslow, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3JH  
London Borough of Islington, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3JH  
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Civic Centre, Town Hall, Kensington, London, W8 7NX  
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Civic Centre, Kingston Town Hall, Kingston, Surrey, KT1 1EU  
London Borough of Lambeth, Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1RW  
London Borough of Lewisham, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Lewisham, London, SE13 6JH  
London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Merton, Surrey, SM4 5DX  
London Borough of Newham, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Newham, London, E6 6BP  
London Borough of Redbridge, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Redbridge, London, IG1 1DD  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1JH  
London Borough of Southwark, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Southwark, London, SE1 1JH  
London Borough of Sutton, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Sutton, Surrey, SM4 5DX  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Tower Hamlets, London, E1 1JH  
London Borough of Waltham Forest, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Waltham Forest, London, E17 4JF  
London Borough of Wandsworth, Civic Centre, Civic House, Civic Centre, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2PU

IN PARLIAMENT  
SESSION 1996-97

## CITY OF WESTMINSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- 1) To provide for street trading controls within the City of Westminster (hereinafter referred to as "the City") replacing, within the City, the street trading provisions in the London Local Authorities Act 1990; to make provision as respects the designation of licence streets and the specification of articles which may be offered for sale in such streets, the granting and renewal of street trading licences including terms and conditions, the revocation or variation of such licences, the charging of fees and recovery of charges in connection with street trading, removal or replacement of employment of assistants, temporary licences, nomination of a relative etc. to whom a holder of a street trading licence wishes a licence to be granted in certain circumstances, the giving of notices, proof of resolutions passed and exercise of powers under the Bill, and as to offences relating to street trading and unlicensed street trading.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1.00 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C.T. WILSON,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1E 6QP  
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,  
Queen Anne's Chambers,  
3 Dean Farnham Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1H 9PL  
Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT  
SESSION 1996-97

## HAILSHAM CATTLE MARKET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by the Hailsham Cattle Market Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") and Carter Commercial Developments Limited for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- (1) To relieve the Company of its duty to provide and maintain a market;
- (2) To amend provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871 to enable the Company to dispose of the whole or any part of its land or property;
- (3) To repeal provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871.

On or after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Clements at 1 North Street, Hammersmith, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsgate, Essex, CM12 3NY and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

DYSON BELL MARTIN  
1, Dean Farnham Street,  
London SW1H 9PL  
Parliamentary Agents

## LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006494 of 1996  
IN THE HIGH COURT  
OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR. JOHN WILSON, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, the Executor of the will of the late Mr. John Wilson, deceased, has received from the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, an order for the appointment of a Receiver of the estate of the late Mr. John Wilson, deceased, and that the undersigned, the Executor, has accepted the appointment of the Receiver.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Clements at 1 North Street, Hammersmith, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsgate, Essex, CM12 3NY and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1E 6QP  
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,  
Queen Anne's Chambers,  
3 Dean Farnham Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1H 9PL  
Parliamentary Agents

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Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1E 6QP  
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,  
Queen Anne's Chambers,  
3 Dean Farnham Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1H 9PL  
Parliamentary Agents

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Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1E 6QP  
City Solicitor

SHARPE PRITCHARD,  
Queen Anne's Chambers,  
3 Dean Farnham Street,  
Westminster,  
London SW1H 9PL  
Parliamentary Agents

## LEGAL NOTICES

## No. 006494 of 1996

## IN THE HIGH COURT

## OF JUSTICE

## CHANCERY DIVISION

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR. JOHN WILSON, deceased.

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, the Executor of the will of the late Mr. John Wilson, deceased, has received from the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, an order for the appointment of a Receiver of the estate of the late Mr. John Wilson, deceased, and that the undersigned, the Executor, has accepted the appointment of the Receiver.

## On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Clements at 1 North Street, Hammersmith, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsgate, Essex, CM12 3NY and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

## Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the latest date for deposit of such a Petition being 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Lords or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

## Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

## C.T. WILSON,

## Westminster City Hall,

## Victoria Street,

## Westminster,

## London SW1E 6QP

## City Solicitor

## SHARPE PRITCHARD,

## Queen Anne's Chambers,

## 3 Dean Farnham Street,

## Westminster,

## London SW1H 9PL

## Parliamentary Agents

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## On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Clements at 1 North Street, Hammersmith, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsgate, Essex, CM12 3NY and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

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## Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

## C.T. WILSON,

## Westminster City Hall,

## Victoria Street,

## Westminster,

## London SW1E 6QP

## City Solicitor

## SHARPE PRITCHARD,

## Queen Anne's Chambers,

## 3 Dean Farnham Street,

## Westminster,

## London SW1H 9PL

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# Airtours heading into more profitable waters

**AIRTOURS:** The second-largest tour operator is expected to unveil a £21 million increase in pre-tax profits when it reports on Wednesday. The industry is still in shock after Airtours and Thomson, the UK's leading tour operators, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading last month for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. However, Merrill Lynch is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £80 million for Airtours, compared with £59 million last year. Wayne Sanderson, its leisure analyst, said the prospects for Airtours are good because consumer spending is forecast to rise by 1.4 per cent, to 4 per cent.

The Airtours share price has not suffered as badly as that of its rival First Choice. The City is comforted by the 29.6 per cent stake held by Carnival Cruise Corporation, the US company, which is widely expected to bid for Airtours in the medium term. David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, has a seat on Carnival's board. He held the helm steady through 1995, the worst trading year for the travel industry for a decade. His experiment with cruising was an instant success, and Sunwing and Carousell were operating at capacity for most of the season.

**LONDON ELECTRICITY:** A decline in profitability is not normally associated with the regional electricity companies but shareholders should brace themselves when the company unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Brokers like NatWest Securities anticipate a drop in the pre-tax number, from £84.5 million to £70.8 million, with earnings per share also down from 32.8p to 31.5p.

The setback is largely because of the implementation of the second distribution review. There is also expected to be a slowdown in achieving benefits from cost-cutting.

The company has already made it clear that any cash surpluses will be used for strengthening the business, so there are unlikely to be any special cash handbacks. Even so, a 14 per cent increase is expected in the half-year payout, with brokers looking for around 13p a share.

**SCOTTISH HYDRO:** Thursday's interim figures cover what is traditionally the quietest period of the year and are unlikely to set pulses racing. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up about £5.5 million, at £67 million, with earnings 11 per cent higher at 13.1p. But the real focus of attention will be on

## COMPANIES

future plans. The group has already made it clear to the City that surplus funds of between £400 million and £500 million will be used to expand its generating and supply operations. Only if it fails to find useful investments will the money be returned to shareholders in the form of a special dividend, or share buyback. Any increase in the interim dividend should reflect the increase in profits, with most brokers looking for a rise of about 9 per cent, to 5.2p.

**YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY:** The focus of attention, when the group reports tomorrow, will be on shareholder value rather than its underlying performance. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £110.6 million to £86.1 million. Earnings a share will be down 6 per cent, at 42.4p. A share buyback may be the most likely outcome. It would enhance earnings and put the dividend cover back to a sensible level. Meanwhile, shareholders can expect a healthy 34 per cent dividend increase, to 13.3p.

**MFI:** The upturn in the housing market and pick-up in

consumer spending should be reflected in half-year figures today, with brokers looking for a surge at the pre-tax level, from £21.6 million to £41.2 million. In September the group confirmed strong growth with sales during the first 21 weeks of the year up by 17 per cent. The strong pound will have benefited the group when translating against the mark, and raw material costs are also expected to have moved in the company's favour after two years of adverse performance. Earnings a share are likely to have almost doubled, at 4.6p, while shareholders should be rewarded with a 17 per cent increase in the interim payout, to 1.75p.

**COMPASS:** A strong surge in pre-tax profits is envisaged when full-year figures are reported tomorrow, but growth in earnings is likely to be much slower. NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits, from £73.2 million to £115.8 million, up by almost 60 per cent. But earnings are likely to grow by a more pedestrian 18 per cent, to 26.6p. The strength of sterling will be good for the group, which generates 75 per cent of profits overseas. But the business is no longer cash generative at the net level, leaving it increasingly

vulnerable to rising interest rates. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the payout, to 8.75p.

**CHUBB:** The maker of safes, locks and electronic security systems has disappointed the market with weak sales growth and eroding margins. However recent acquisitions, including MSS and the fire and security operations of James Hardie, are beginning to make their mark, while restructuring costs are coming down. NatWest Securities is calling for pre-tax profits of £45.6 million when Chubb reports its interim results tomorrow, up from £43.2 million last year.

**NFC:** The recovery at the logistics group continues to accelerate, and should be reflected in full-year figures on Wednesday when pre-tax profits are expected to come but at £105 million, compared with £76.2 million last time. Earnings should also show a marked improvement of around 35 per cent, at 9.3p. Competition remains intense but profits growth will have been underpinned by increased efficiency, productivity gains and cost-cutting. The dividend is likely to be held at 7.1p.

MICHAEL CLARK



David Crossland, Airtours chairman, kept the helm steady in a difficult year

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Clarke's diary holds key to the week

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A peek at Kenneth Clarke's diary furnishes many of the key events that will attract the financial markets' attention this week. Today the Chancellor is questioned by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on the Budget. After the Governor of the Bank of England last week gave an apparently relaxed view of the need to raise base rates, the markets will be eager to see what light on this question will be shed by Mr Clarke. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, testifies tomorrow.

On Wednesday the focus in the morning will be the monetary meeting to see whether base rates are raised. Later Mr Clarke opens a two-day debate in Parliament on Europe. On Thursday the Chancellor goes to Dublin for a crucial meeting of European finance ministers, followed on Friday and Saturday by the European Council meeting, dubbed the Dublin Summit. On Thursday the regular

meeting of the Bank of France's council may gain attention given recent talk about the franc-mark exchange rate.

Among key British statistical releases this week are November producer prices today which are expected to show further easing in the rates of input and output price inflation. Output price inflation is expected to slide to 2.1 per cent from 2.3 per cent in October while input prices are predicted, according to the market consensus from MIMS International, to be 2.1 per cent down year on year compared with 2 per cent previously.

On Thursday November retail prices figures are expected to show key measures of inflation unchanged from October. Headline inflation is predicted to stay at 2.7 per cent, underlying inflation at 3.3 per cent and RPIY — excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes — at 3 per cent. December's CBI industrial trends survey is also published.



Clarke: European debate



George: relaxed view

## TODAY

Interims: Carclo Engineering, Drummond Group, Ideal Hardware, Jarvis (GB), Leopold Joseph, Mulberry Group, TR Far East Income. Final: API Group, Dwyer Estates, Electronic Data Processing, Fifth Floor, Reed Executive, Simms, Unidore. Economic statistics: UK November producer prices.

## TOMORROW

Interims: Alba, Anglian Group, Berkeley Group, British Land, BSS Group, Capital For Companies VCT, Chubb Security, Drummond Group, Halm, Hill Hire, Procost International, John Tams Group, Theo Fernald, Total Systems, Triad Group, Vtech Holdings. Final: Alders, Caltech Group, Compass Group, Holmes & Marchant, Hazell Group, Leads Group, Sage Group, Watral Holdings, Whesoe. Economic statistics: UK October new construction orders, UK BRC November retail sales survey, US Q3 current account balance, National Association of Purchasing Managers semi-annual economic forecast.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: WS Atkins, Bristol Water Holdings, David S Smith, First Technology, Greene King. Final: Airtours, Apollo Metals, Avon Rub-

ber, NFC, John Senn & Son, Sap Industrial Holdings. Economic statistics: US November producer prices index, French November preliminary consumer prices index, UK monthly monetary meeting between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor, Japan October current account balance.

## THURSDAY

Interims: DG Cook Holdings, Fine Art Developments, Harvey Nicholls Group, London Electricity, MS International, Phonelink, Reliance Security, Scottish Hydro-Electric, Welthomes. Final: Baggeridge Brick, Cure UK, Countryside Properties, Daily Mail & General Trust, Dunedin Smaller Companies, Greenalls Group, M&G Group. Economic statistics: UK November retail prices index, UK December CBI industrial trends survey, US weekly jobless claims, US November consumer prices index, US November retail sales.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Moorgate Smaller, TR Technology. Final: Bankers Investment Trust, Grainger Trust, Moorgate Smaller Companies Income Trust. Economic statistics: European Council meeting in Dublin, French September current account balance.

## SUNDAY TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Hay & Robertson, Williams, Wainhomes, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Marston. The Sunday Times: Buy BAC, Williams, Tarmac, Hill Hire. The Sunday Tele-

graph: Buy Peptide, Williams, Emap, Doeflex, Compass. The Observer: Buy GUS, Courts. The Mail on Sunday: Buy H Young, Doeflex and S Daniels. The Express on Sunday: Buy Tate & Lyle, BT, BP.



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# Liverpool millennium project under fire from Walton Group

By Jason Nasse

A PROPERTY developer is urging The Millennium Commission to reject an £80 million media and telecommunications project in the centre of Liverpool, claiming it will block another scheme that would create 6,000 jobs in the area.

Walton Group is proposing a rival £150 million development, building an 800,000 sq ft shopping and media centre on the site in Chavasse Park, next to the Albert Dock in central Liverpool.

Walton's solicitors, Bermans, wrote to Jennifer Page, chief executive of the commission, saying that a decision to grant the request for £24.6 million of Lottery funding for the Discovery Centre would kill off the Walton project.

The commission will decide on Wednesday whether to back the Discovery Centre, which is also set to receive about £15 million from Liverpool City Council and the Merseyside Development Corporation as well as £40 million of private-sector finance.

The project has been put together by the Anglican Dean of Liverpool and will include a media factory, a technology museum, a public park and some shops. Liverpool City Council, which owns the site, would be willing to sell it to the Discovery project for just £3 million, a fifth of the price Walton had said it would pay.

Walton says that Liverpool City Council had previously agreed to its offer of £15 million plus £1 million expenses for the site on which Walton is proposing to build an upmarket shopping centre along with media, education and leisure facilities.

## Budget has failed to convince managers

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S managers expect interest rates to rise again before the general election and are sceptical about the value of the Budget to the UK economy, new evidence shows today.

The findings of the latest opinion survey of Britain's managers are almost uniformly dismissive about the recent Budget from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, with most not only doubtful that they will be better off as a result, but suggesting that the Budget's tax cuts will push up inflation.

### Reuters denies cash return

Reuters, the financial information group, denied weekend reports that it has shelved plans to return some of its near-£1 billion cash pile to shareholders. An earlier plan to pay back £613 million through special dividend shares was stymied by tax changes in October. Reuters is thought to be waiting for Finance Bill changes before deciding whether to renew the attempt.

### 3% rises

Most wage deals in the engineering industry in the quarter to October were for 3 per cent or less, according to a survey of 142 firms by the Engineering Employers' Federation. October was the first month for nearly three years in which no pay freezes were reported.

### TR deadline

Investors in the TR Technology split capital investment trust have until 3pm tomorrow to roll over into the new Henderson Technology Trust. Holders of 54.3 per cent of TR ordinary shares have agreed to swap.

### WTO summit

World Trade Organisation ministers begin their inaugural five-day meeting in Singapore today, with customs modernisation and cross-border investment top of the agenda, according to business leaders.



New toys: John Swingewood, broadcast services manager at British Telecom, which is paying £6 million for a further 15 transportable earth stations. The mobile satellite stations are used to boost television signals to studios

## Pearson buys stake in South African papers

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, is to announce today that it has entered the South African newspaper market with purchases worth about £11.5 million. It is buying 50 per cent of *Business Day* and an equal share of the *Financial Mail*, a weekly, from Times Media, a South African publishing and TV group. The former has a circulation of 40,200; the latter 31,100. Pearson said the *Financial Times* will help the two titles to expand in their home markets and develop their international coverage.

Pearson is forming a company called African Business Media to hold its interest in the newspapers. A TV company called the African Business Channel, which produces a nightly business news programme, will become part of the company. It is currently owned by a partnership between Times Media and the *Financial Times*' TV division.



Scardino: expected to sell

## Victory for German metal union

By Oliver August

GERMAN employers yesterday caved in to the demands of strike-happy metal workers over a 20 per cent sick pay cut. Provisions for the cut, made in a new law, will not be implemented although the loss-making metal industry is losing 100,000 jobs every year. Employers had taken a hard line in failed national and regional pay talks to enforce the cuts. However, the powerful IG Metall union replied with strikes, drawing tens of thousands to keep sick pay in line with full wages. Werner Stumpfe, the employers' negotiator, said that the deal failed to meet the goal of cutting costs, but no other outcome had been possible. IG Metall said that all-out strikes were possible next year if deals are not made nationwide protecting full sick pay. Under former law, overtime work counted towards sick pay, and sick workers could receive more than their working normal hours.

## Greenwood on the cards

By Sarah Cunningham

STUART GREENWOOD, the former finance director of Spring Ram, is set to take a higher business profile after the acquisition by The Greeting Store Group, the company he now runs, of Strand Libraries, the greetings card retailer. The privately owned Strand, the fourth-largest greetings card retailer in the UK, went into administration in May, owing more than £7 million and with sufficient cash flow to continue trading during the summer — tradi-

tionally a loss-making period. Arthur Andersen, the company's administrators, has since sold 15 of Strand's worst performing stores and returned the company to solvency. In the year to April, the company made a £500,000 loss on turnover of £31.5 million. Just in time for the busy Christmas period, the Greeting Store Group agreed on Friday — after approval in the High Court's of the refinancing package for Strand prepared by Arthur Andersen —

to buy Strand's remaining 74 outlets. The Greeting Store Group already has a chain of 36 stores. Under the deal, it will pay off all of Strand's creditors in full. The main creditor, apart from landlords, is Hallmark, the greetings card manufacturer. Mr Greenwood left Spring Ram, the ailing bathroom equipment manufacturer, in 1993, the first of a string of directors to quit the company as it sank further into financial difficulties.

## Bid report goes to Lang

By Martin Waller

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission will today pass to the Department of Trade and Industry a report on yet another politically sensitive takeover battle in the utilities sector — the attempt by two French companies to wrest control of Mid Kent Holdings, the supplier of water to 530,000 customers in Kent.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will consider the commission's findings before giving a final ruling on whether a bid should be allowed next month. The two French companies, General Utilities and SAUR, have not yet put a formal takeover offer on the table, pending clearance from Mr Lang, but an offer valuing the company at more than £75 million is expected if one is allowed. The French, who have holdings totalling 39 per cent in Mid Kent, first made a hostile offer a year ago. Their joint bid for Mid Kent was referred to the MMC early in the summer, and the two have been at loggerheads with the water company over the latter's allegations that customers would suffer if a takeover is allowed.

Geoff Baldwin, chief executive of Mid Kent, claimed yesterday that hopepipe bans would be brought forward by a bid. The two French groups already own South East Water and Folkestone and Dover Water, two water supply companies which adjoin Mid Kent. "South East Water has had hopepipe restrictions in force for more than a year," said Mr Baldwin. "There is no public benefit from a merger."

## Institutions courted for £50m rights

## Wickes seeks fresh start

By Sarah Cunningham

THE MANAGEMENT of Wickes, the scandal-hit DIY chain, is to hold a final round of meetings with institutional shareholders early this week in an effort to persuade them to support a £50 million rights issue, set to be launched on Thursday. Some institutional investors are concerned that the company, whose former senior management is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has increased the amount it wants to raise from £20 million. One fund manager, who is due to meet Wickes's managers this week, said: "We are all still in the dark, and need to hear what Wickes have to say before we take any decisions."



A bidder may pounce

The Wickes management began visits to institutional investors last week. The recapitalisation will allow trading in Wickes shares, suspended in June, to restart. It could also trigger a bidding war. The suspension came after accounting irregularities were uncovered at the company. Wickes has since disclosed that there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers. The SFO said last month that it had begun an inquiry into the activities of former senior managers. The prospectus, which advisers hope to be able to release on Thursday, will include a restatement of 1995 profits and interim results for this year. The information could spur a bid for Wickes. Companies thought to be possible suitors are RMC and Kingfisher, owner of B&Q.

**GOLD FIELDS COAL LIMITED**

**DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND**

The company has declared a final dividend No. 167 of 110 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27 December 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 5 February 1997 at, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 4 February 1997.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 28 December 1996 to 3 January 1997, inclusive.

*By order of the Board*  
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED  
London Secretary  
S.J. Dunning, Secretary  
London Office and Office of  
United Kingdom Registrar  
Greenoat House  
Francis Street  
London SW1P 1DH

Head Office:  
75 Fox Street  
Johannesburg 2001  
Republic of South Africa

6 December 1996

No. 006515 of 1996

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY NATWEST LIMITED**  
and  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th November, 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £300,000,000 to £10,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard on an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 9th day of December, 1996.

**LINKLATER & PAINES (OTL)**  
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Solicitors for the above-named Company

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# Baby boomers face picking up the bill for US budget deficit

Not everyone accepts need to balance the books, says Bronwen Maddox

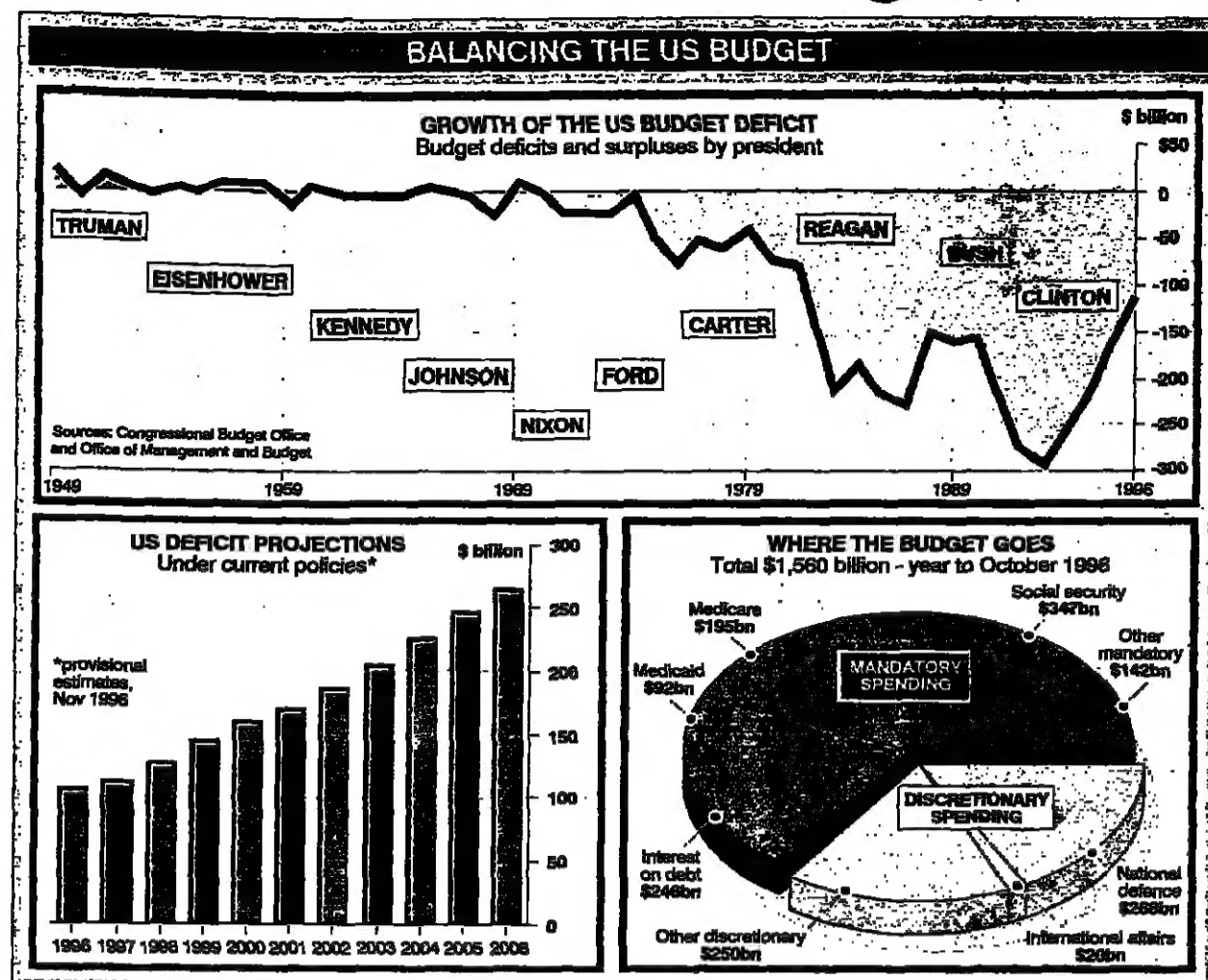
The turmoil on world stock markets after Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Bank chairman, criticised Wall Street's "irrational exuberance" on Thursday, meant that his remarks the next day on the looming US budget crisis went unheard. In a speech in Philadelphia, Mr Greenspan said that America's social security system was heading for bankruptcy if taxes were not raised or benefits slashed. "Clearly, something has to give — the question is what," he said.

That comment has more implications for the long-term buoyancy of Wall Street than his tart observation about the markets' frothiness. Social security is just one factor in the problem of the US budget deficit, the gap between government annual income and spending, which threatens to push up national debt and interest rates, choking economic growth. President Clinton has said that making progress on balancing the budget is the highest priority of his second term, and the Republican-controlled Congress may soon pass an amendment to the US constitution forcing him to do so.

Yet, neither Mr Clinton nor Congress has come up with a plausible plan for how to trim the deficit. For a good reason: solutions mean radically reworking the financial contract that US citizens have come to believe that they have with their Government. In particular, it means telling the generation that has grown up since the Second World War, middle-class baby boomers like Mr Clinton himself, that they are going to be much poorer than they expected.

There are few more electorally palatable messages a politician can deliver. But as Mr Greenspan said, the longer action is deferred, the greater the eventual tax increases, or more likely, the cuts in benefits.

The idea that balancing the budget is a pressing task is not accepted by many US economists and political commentators. They have a point, in theory. The deficit is just an accounting number; there is no simple relationship with the economy's growth or people's level of income. It is quite reasonable for governments to borrow at periods in the economic cycle to finance investment,



provided that the debt can be repaid out of future income. As the chart shows, there has not been a US budget surplus since 1969, in a budget proposed by President Nixon and inherited by President Ford.

Critics of budget balancing are also right to complain that the deficit has taken on a symbolic importance in Americans' minds for dubious reasons: people regard it as a sign of whether the Government is out of control, rather than as one economic indicator among many. That confusion has led to the clumsy attempt to use the US constitution to specify details of fiscal policy.

All the same, there is a good reason to think that at this point the deficit should be cut sharply. For a start, as David Hale, an influential economic commentator based in Chicago, points out: "At this point in the business cycle we should expect to be running a surplus." Robert Reich, the former director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, goes further: "We should be running a surplus now, not just because of the business cycle, but because of the stage we're at in the demographic cycle."

The core of the problem is that in the second and third decades of the next century, when the baby boom generation has retired, government

income will fall short of the amounts needed for social security and Medicare, the programme of medical care for the elderly, as well as for welfare programmes such as Medicaid. On social security alone, Mr Greenspan noted on Friday, funds are due to run out by 2029 and reach a shortfall of "a staggering \$3 trillion" by 2070.

If steps are not taken soon, taxes will soar in those decades or the framework of benefits will collapse. Mr Clinton, who says that his second term will be dedicated to meeting that

challenge, has been helped by the economy's recent strength. Projections of the deficit to 2006 (shown in the chart) have been revised downwards by roughly a third since the summer as economic growth has boosted tax revenues and squeezed unemployment benefits.

But he has so far failed to produce a coherent plan of how he will bring a balanced budget closer. His campaign promise to preserve Medicare, Medicaid, education and environmental programmes implied that the burden of cuts would

fall on non-defence discretionary spending.

This category includes many programmes that are essentially corporate subsidies, such as small business aid, export promotion and energy research. Mr Clinton may be able to trim them, although special interest groups will fight passionately for their preservation. But this category, which also includes the Coast Guard, national parks and some educational programmes, makes up only a sixth of the total budget. If the budget were to be balanced purely by cuts in this area, the role of the federal government in the economy would fall back to the same level as the beginning of the 1930s, a reversal voters are unlikely to support.

Some policy advisers suggest taking advantage of last week's revelation that inflation has been miscalculated for the past two decades, using this as a way to reduce index-linked payments such as social security. But other advisers point out that voters would spot this as a cut in benefits.

In practice, the savings that Mr Clinton is likely to scrape together, after fierce political battles, may appear to support his claim that the deficit is heading for zero by 2002. But they will not be on a scale to stop it gaping open again after 2010. Despite Mr Clinton's promises, most models suggest that the necessary cuts will eventually have to come from



Alan Greenspan and Bill Clinton say the deficit needs tacking

Medicare, Medicaid and social security.

A federal advisory panel which has been studying the social security funding problem for two years has been sharply divided over the best way forward. Part of the panel believes in a solution that has been dubbed a "magic wand" — investing social security funds in the stock market rather than government bonds in the hope that they will yield higher returns. But other panel members accept that cuts in entitlements are almost inevitable. That has led them to explore a plan that has until now been taboo: requiring people to put money aside for their retirement.

Despite the US's culture of private enterprise, and provision of a safety net that is skimpy compared with that in many European countries, there is enormous public resistance to the idea of privatising state benefits. Yet, many government advisers state bluntly that unless baby boomers begin to save more, their expectations of retirement will be severely disappointed.

Mr Reich, however, says: "Most 40-year-old Americans, asked 'how are you going to live in retirement?' look around at their parents and say 'like that'. They don't understand the very peculiar circumstances which have allowed their parents to live as well as they do, in particular the huge appreciation in the value of housing." The parents of baby boomers, many of whom grew up during recession when public health and pension schemes were scanty, saved "too much" — they put by money for their old age, and then were showered with bounty by government schemes.

What is more, many baby boomers have suffered divorces, which tend to be financially ruinous. Remarriage or late marriage mean that many have children in college when they are in their 50s; in contrast, they left their parents' homes when they were in their twenties or thirties.

Warnings by Mr Greenspan are unlikely to be enough to persuade politicians, working to a four-year horizon, to cut public spending or raise taxes by enough to head off the next century's crisis in federal entitlements. It has never been easy to persuade people working now to pay more for the benefit of future generations, as voters' reluctance to pay for environmental preservation shows.

It is possible, however, that his warnings might jolt people into saving more of their income to protect themselves in the future. Baby boomers might start to make amends on their own behalf for the near-certainty that politicians will not grapple with the crisis until it is upon them.

## Ecology for everyone

Present Tense: The Enduring World of the Innis. Radio 3, 9.20pm.

James Wilson presents this five-part series about the customs and folklore of the Innis, indigenous to the Labrador/Quebec peninsula in northeast Canada. It is what he says, certainly not the rather lacklustre way he says it, that makes his series a fine example of popular ecology. Contemporary opinion, based on European concepts of cultural development, is that this little-known nation of hunters is an anachronism. "Stone Age Arctic nomads," is how one Canadian television commentator dismissed them just a couple of years ago. But Wilson says the Innis see themselves very differently — as part of a sacred reality in which animals, human beings and land are joyfully intertwined.

The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Shocks follow on each others' heels so closely in part two of Elizabeth Proud's play sequence about Edward (Christopher Cazenove) and Mrs Simpson (Stockard Channing) that, in what seems less than a wink after HRH is telling the notorious American that she must miss central heating in London, she is admonishing him not to eat with his fingers like a naughty boy. And while husband Edward is dodging off in a nightclub, his spouse and the Prince are gazing across the dancefloor to the tune of *Too For Two*. Popular songs of the day are used throughout the play like punctuation marks. Fortunately, they include *Let's Face the Music and Dance*. Peter Daville

**RADIO 1**  
7.00am Chris Evans 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Lisa 'Anson', includes at 12.30pm 12.45 Newsbeat 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier, includes 6.30-6.45 Newsbeat 7.00pm Evening Session, with Jo Whiteley and Steve Lamacq 8.00pm John Peel's Classic Radio One Sessions 10.00pm Mark Radcliffe 12.00am Claire Sturgess, includes at 12.15am The Next 4.30am Chris Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

**RADIO 2**  
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00pm Stuart Stewart 5.00pm John Peel 7.00pm Hubert Green 8.30pm Mollie Layzell, with Dance Band Days 8.30pm Big Band Special 9.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00pm Mollie Layzell, with Dance Band Days 10.30pm The Jamieson 12.00am Steve Mason 3.00am Alex Lester

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.45 Wake Up to money 6.00pm The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.45 7.55pm racing review 8.35pm The Magazine, with Denis Mack 10.10pm News from Europe 12.00pm Midday with Mel 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.30pm News on Five 4.00pm Newsnight, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.30pm News Extra, incl at 7.25pm Sports Bulletin 7.35pm Sportsbeat 8.05pm The Monday Match, Newcastle United v Nottingham Forest 10.05pm News Talk 11.00pm Night Extra 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.00am All Night

**TALK RADIO**  
6.00am Early Breakfast 7.00pm Paul Ross 8.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Anne Parry 1.30pm The Tommy Boyd 4.00pm DriveTime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Muz Day's Sportszone 10.00pm James Whale 1.00pm Ian Collins

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
6.00am Run 'n' Jon's Breakfast 8.00am Henry Kelly 9.00am Graham Duff 1.00pm Jeremy Vine 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00pm Paul Doyle (FM) 10.00pm (AM) 10.00pm Mark Forrest 2.00pm Herald Lee Ross

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Britains (Variations on a theme by Haydn, St Antoni Chrysostom, Albinus, Concerto in C for trumpet, three oboes, bassoon and continuo); Verdi (Ere più calmo); M. G. S. Ave Maria, Op. 42; Gershwin (Sweet and lowdown); Novello in Fourth, So am I) 9.30am An Advent Calendar, Malcolm Bruno introduces more Christmas carols performed by British amateur choirs. Easterday Singers under Nicholas Berran. William Billings (A Virgin Unspiced); Gruber (Silent Night); Jeremiah Ingalls (Glory to God on high) 9.00pm Morning Collection, Rossini (Overture, Semiramide); Beethoven (Crisis of Nubia); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines, includes Schubert (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (Daphné); Enescu (Flowerland); Ruggieri (No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berlioz (La Mort de Ophélie); Bruckner (String Quintet in F, original version) 12.00pm Composer of the Week, Robert Schumann, with Stephen Johnson 1.00pm News, BBC Localities Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London, featuring Quartet Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 54 No 1); Berg (Lyric Suite) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic under Yehudi Yin, with Pascal Tondelli. With the

**RADIO 4**  
6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Britains (Variations on a theme by Haydn, St Antoni Chrysostom, Albinus, Concerto in C for trumpet, three oboes, bassoon and continuo); Verdi (Ere più calmo); M. G. S. Ave Maria, Op. 42; Gershwin (Sweet and lowdown); Novello in Fourth, So am I) 9.30am An Advent Calendar, Malcolm Bruno introduces more Christmas carols performed by British amateur choirs. Easterday Singers under Nicholas Berran. William Billings (A Virgin Unspiced); Gruber (Silent Night); Jeremiah Ingalls (Glory to God on high) 9.00pm Morning Collection, Rossini (Overture, Semiramide); Beethoven (Crisis of Nubia); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines, includes Schubert (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (Daphné); Enescu (Flowerland); Ruggieri (No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berlioz (La Mort de Ophélie); Bruckner (String Quintet in F, original version) 12.00pm Composer of the Week, Robert Schumann, with Stephen Johnson 1.00pm News, BBC Localities Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London, featuring Quartet Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 54 No 1); Berg (Lyric Suite) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic under Yehudi Yin, with Pascal Tondelli. With the

**RADIO 5**  
6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes Britains (Variations on a theme by Haydn, St Antoni Chrysostom, Albinus, Concerto in C for trumpet, three oboes, bassoon and continuo); Verdi (Ere più calmo); M. G. S. Ave Maria, Op. 42; Gershwin (Sweet and lowdown); Novello in Fourth, So am I) 9.30am An Advent Calendar, Malcolm Bruno introduces more Christmas carols performed by British amateur choirs. Easterday Singers under Nicholas Berran. William Billings (A Virgin Unspiced); Gruber (Silent Night); Jeremiah Ingalls (Glory to God on high) 9.00pm Morning Collection, Rossini (Overture, Semiramide); Beethoven (Crisis of Nubia); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines, includes Schubert (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (Daphné); Enescu (Flowerland); Ruggieri (No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berlioz (La Mort de Ophélie); Bruckner (String Quintet in F, original version) 12.00pm Composer of the Week, Robert Schumann, with Stephen Johnson 1.00pm News, BBC Localities Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London, featuring Quartet Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 54 No 1); Berg (Lyric Suite) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic under Yehudi Yin, with Pascal Tondelli. With the

**RADIO 6**  
5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 No Man is an Island 6.50 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News; Dear Diary, Michael Schmidt, director of a Manchester-based publishing company, records the rebuilding of the city after the IRA bomb 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz: The last of the series with Sue MacGregor, Denise Coffey, Christopher Cook, Philip Gregory and Michael Schmidt 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; Walls — The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson See Choice (2/3) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, Laurie Taylor and guests with lively topical debate and reports from around Britain 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker sees a new production of Lady Windemere's Fan at the Royal Exchange in Manchester 4.45 Short Story: Language Lessons, by Lisa Loxton 5.00 PM With Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping 6.55 Weather 8.00 Six O'Clock News 8.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue From the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, with Barry Oyar

**RADIO 7**  
5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 No Man is an Island 6.50 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News; Dear Diary, Michael Schmidt, director of a Manchester-based publishing company, records the rebuilding of the city after the IRA bomb 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz: The last of the series with Sue MacGregor, Denise Coffey, Christopher Cook, Philip Gregory and Michael Schmidt 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; Walls — The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson See Choice (2/3) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, Laurie Taylor and guests with lively topical debate and reports from around Britain 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker sees a new production of Lady Windemere's Fan at the Royal Exchange in Manchester 4.45 Short Story: Language Lessons, by Lisa Loxton 5.00 PM With Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping 6.55 Weather 8.00 Six O'Clock News 8.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue From the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, with Barry Oyar

**RADIO 8**  
5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 No Man is an Island 6.50 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00 News; Dear Diary, Michael Schmidt, director of a Manchester-based publishing company, records the rebuilding of the city after the IRA bomb 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz: The last of the series with Sue MacGregor, Denise Coffey, Christopher Cook, Philip Gregory and Michael Schmidt 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; Walls — The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson See Choice (2/3) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, Laurie Taylor and guests with lively topical debate and reports from around Britain 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Lynne Walker sees a new production of Lady Windemere's Fan at the Royal Exchange in Manchester 4.45 Short Story: Language Lessons, by Lisa Loxton 5.00 PM With Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping 6.55 Weather 8.00 Six O'Clock News 8.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue From the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, with Barry Oyar

**FREQUENCY GUIDE** RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 90.2-92.2, RADIO 3, FM 92.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 198, MW 188 (12.45-5.55pm), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1055, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McInnes

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Trekkers' pain and pleasure

TROUBLED "trekkers", distraught at hearing that last weekend's Star Trek Christmas Special at Wembley Arena had been cancelled, were offered the solace of a sex line.

Hapless Wembley Arena sent out a release outlining the change of plans with the wrong number for Eye Communications at its tail end.

Instead of reaching the public relations company, callers were put through to a softly spoken female voice. "Congratulations, you have reached a higher plane of pleasure. We are not available to take your call right now, but if you would like to leave any intimate thoughts with Melanie, Belinda, or Heidi, please leave your name... please don't be scared off by the beeps, our line is never full."

### Talking it up

SIR Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, ought to be delighted with the outcome of last week's Oxford Union debate, which the company sponsored. Peter Setfield, acclaimed speech coach, and Julia Cole, agony aunt and spokeswoman for Relate, proposed the winning motion "It's Good to Talk". Speaking for the opposition were Arie Sigman, psychologist and broadcaster, and Stephen Burger, a journalist. Maureen Lipman, the actress and former face of the BT advertisements, summed up the motion and announced it carried by 91

votes. She said: "We need informed talk in the classroom, combative talk in the home, sweet talk in the bedroom, revolutionary talk on campus, and no talk in the cinema." Yes, but what about the boardroom?

### Rival's role

STAFF at the opening of the Litten Tree pub, which claims to be the largest watering hole to hit Wandsworth, were a little taken aback by their first customer. It was Pat Read, managing director of Youngs, a rival brewery, who had wandered round the corner for a thirst-quenching pint. Tony Hill, managing director of Surrey Free Inns, owner of

the Litten Tree, took it all in his stride, and invited Read to pull the first pint.

### Clubbing time

FOLLOWING my reports on the Berkeley Playhouse, London's first table-dancing club, I receive a call from Peter Stringfellow. He tells me that the club in Dover Street, currently looking for investors, doesn't yet have a licence. What's more, Stringfellow let slip that he is also planning to open his own club in Mayfair, not a million miles away from the Berkeley Playhouse site. Angels of Mayfair is scheduled to open for gazing by April next year. Meanwhile, John Paul, own-

er of Berkeley Playhouse, assures me that Westminster City Council has issued him with a licence.

### Memory lane

TOM HUNTER, managing director of Sports Division, was reliving memories of his childhood at the weekend. Along with board members from the sports chain that recently took over Olympique, he put in a day's work on the shopfloor. Brian McCuskey, finance director, and Ian Grabina, commercial director, joined Hunter at the Oxford Street store. All three travelled from Scotland, staying overnight at an hotel, to work from 9 until 6 on Saturday evening. The practice has been standard since Sports Division started ten years ago with 40 stores. Decked out in a tracksuit and baseball cap, Hunter recalled helping his father in the family grocery shop from the age of five.

### It's a lockout

ON AN institutional visit to the Allied Colloids chemicals plant in Bradford, James Dean, on specialist sales at James Capel, locked himself out of his hotel bedroom. Wandering into the corridor in the middle of the night, he heard the door lock behind him. Weaving his way along the corridor, dressed in boxer shorts, Dean panicked and set off an alarm. Hotel staff came to his rescue, somewhat bemused as to why he was wandering through the hall and not tucked up in his bed.

MORAG PRESTON



Maureen Lipman announced the motion was carried

SOUTH SEA PEARL  
JEWELLERY WITH  
DIAMOND FROM 1880

FABULOUS BLACK PEARL  
STAND FRODO 1880

FABULOUS BLACK PEARL  
STAND FRODO 1880

WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARL  
STAND FRODO 1880

FABULOUS BLACK PEARL  
AND DIAMOND DROP  
EARRINGS FROM 1880

WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARL  
STAND FRODO 1880

PEARL EARRINGS  
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# Seventeen sex scenes, give or take a couple

Quite where it was I first learnt there were 17 sex scenes. In ITV's version of *All Flanders* I forget now. Given the avalanche of titillating publicity that preceded Andrew Davies's adaptation, it could have been anywhere. But wherever it was, I wish I had never smacked eyes on the miserable statistic.

No sooner has Jim Parker's deeply unimaginative theme music begun, than I am there — a pathetic figure struggling in vain to keep the score. After last night's third instalment I make it — with absolutely no confidence at all — 11 down, six to go.

This unimpressive lack of precision stems from my own uncertainty as to just what constitutes a sex scene. The general principle is simple: familiar with (that's what comes of watching too much television) but some of the subtleties are still causing me problems.

For example, do interrupted second helps count twice and, for that matter, do fully clothed couplings count at all? Answer no to both and our tally could be as low as nine and tonight's concluding episode should be a busy one. Answer yes, however, and if clergymen fulminating lasciviously over the sins of the flesh also believe that we were already up to 13 and it's pretty much all over, bar the lesbian interpolation.

This sort of highly technical analysis has kept me busy, so busy in fact that it has taken all of three episodes for a different truth to dawn on my distracted brain—that *I Moll Flanders* is, . . . rather bad. I don't mean Alex Kingston is rather bad — she has been wonderful as Moll — and should collect a host of awards including Best Actress, Best close contest with Frances Barber, Best Sex with Frances Barber, Best Sex with Radziwyl in *Rhodes* and Best Topless Asides to Camera (unless

Christmas holds some real surprises, a certainty).

But nearly everybody else — from Diana Rigg down, as my colleague Lynne Truss pointed out last week — has fallen short of the expected mark. They have not been helped by a production that combines 17th-century authenticity on the wardrobe front (bonnets from hell for the women, bright wigs for the men) with a very 20th-century use of the words, "Leave it, Selina," snapped the normally splendid Daniel Craig, as he drew his way through the part of Jimmy Seagrave.

**F**ar more culpable, however, is Davies's screenplay, which while being undeniably amusing, has chased cheap laughs at every opportunity (witness *Mac's* confession and the spectacularly arrogant she mope on the coach) and normally cheap, 20th-century laughs at that. The

Gluck. Gluck. Gluck (BBC2, Friday). You might think that a man who founded a second career (his first was in advertising, I believe) on the word "plonk" might have had the decency to move on to a third career based on something a little more contemporary by now. But no, Gluck is still here, blithely ignoring the fact that — for all the right reasons — the bottom of the wine market has become rather dull. A revolution in wine-making and the buying expertise of the supermarkets have raised the quality of wines to a standard that most people would describe as quite acceptable.

Quite acceptable, however, as Jilly Goolden will tell you, does not a wine programme make — oh dear me, no. So we're off again, down the familiar path of tortuous links (for one Gluck sat in a bath, just so he could describe the texture of a wine as flannel) and tortured descriptions. As a proles

sional debunker (where other quaff, Gluck scoffs) Gluck ought to be above all that "oakey, limey" hint of under-ripe melody" nor sense but alas — no.

An Australian white wine, he thought, would be "terrific with gruff food," now there's a revolutionary thought! or even, "a dish" with "lightly spiced oriental dishes." As for the red for Raimat, it was "great with chicken and mushrooms or..." wait for it... "simply sitting sipping on the front step". Cheers, Malcolm — here's to that third career.

**I**n conclusion, let us consider the excuses producers come up with to make us watch more pictures of animals. Some are good, such as the stylish *Spirits of the Jaguar* (BBC2), which yesterday turned its attention to the Mayas, or to be more specific, the animals that live in the Central American forests that surround

the ruins where the Maya used to live. The result was enjoyable mildly exasperating, leaving me wanting to know more about the Maya and less about silky arm eaters and blind cave-fish.

Compare and contrast this with *The Saga of Life* (Charnel Saturday) the second part of which was the story of missusologist Tobias who would have been your biology teacher apologising for 20 years ago. What Michael Grade was doing showing it at 8 o'clock on Saturday night, only he knows.

The common link to a programme an endless hour long with microscopic animals that had been filmed by one Lennart Nilsson "Lennart Nilsson has allowed us gaze into an unseen world," enthused the sort of narration that could cause sniggering at the BBC. I searched the programme for a foreign word, my scalp flexed the "fertile foothills" of my forearm and reached for the remote control




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**CHOICE**

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (37536)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (68080)  
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (1053170)  
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4934489)  
9.45 KILROY (8778938)  
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK With  
Alley-Myer (37354)  
11.00 NEWS (7), regional news and weather  
(3462422) 11.05 The Really Useful Show  
(6463335) 11.45 Smilie's People  
(686036)  
12.00 NEWS (7), regional news and weather  
(5123539)  
12.05pm QUINCY (3406083) 12.50 The  
Weather Show (80872880)  
1.00 NEWS (7) and weather (61966)  
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (27123426)  
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (7) (28613422) 2.00 *Car  
My Bluff* (5198) 2.30 *Who'd Do  
Pudding?* (847) 3.00 *Inognito* (4808)  
3.30 THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD  
SCARRY (1836480) 3.55 *Bondage*  
and *Badger* (2101034) 4.10 *Ace Ventura: Pet  
Detective* (1901644) 4.35 *Recon  
Breakers* (7) (7785757) 5.00 *Newsworld*  
(7) (655116) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (7)  
(8657892)  
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (7) (7) (481064)  
6.00 (7) and weather (248)  
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (828)  
7.00 TELLY ADDICTS Noel Edmond  
presents the second semi-final of the  
television trivia quiz (7) (8916)  
7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD Inside a look  
at what is claimed to be the world's oldest  
car, which the manufacturers say is  
impossible to crash (7) (712)  
8.00 EASTENDERS Phil and Grant leave  
some disturbing facts about George  
Peggy has another hospital appointment  
(7) (5335)  
8.30 CHEFF Comedy drama starring Lenny  
Henry. With his divorce looming, Gareth  
is prone to several mood swings as he  
mingles with the chefs (7) (7170)  
9.00 NEWS (7) and weather (7606)  
9.30 PANORAMA: THE PRIDE IS WRONG  
The BBC has introduced allegations that  
the prices of hi-fi, televisions and frigdes  
are being kept artificially high (7)  
(723847)  
10.10 BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR  
OF AUSTRALIA As the Scottish  
comedian's tour nears its end, Billy  
arrives in the Outback, where he visits an  
open-mining town and sees underground  
mining equipped with the latest  
saw-mining tools (7) (97771)  
10.50 COMMON AS MUCK Comedy series  
about a gang of dustmen (7) (750151)  
WALES: The State 11.20 Film 96 11.50  
Common as Muck 12.45 Smilie's People  
1.30 News  
11.50 Film 96 WITH BARRY NORMAN  
Reviews of 101 Demolitions with Glenn  
Close as *Cruella DeVille*, *Star Trek - First  
Contact* and *1 Shot Army* *Barbed*, which  
cost Valerie George *Barbed* to fill the  
1980s artist and film-maker, Plus  
Sylvester Stallone talks about his latest  
action movie, *Daylight* (7) (738808)  
12.20pm SMILIE'S PEOPLE (2346297)  
1.05 WEATHER (8667671)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (P), Pluscode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gernstar Development Ltd.

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: *Lifestyle*  
 Work and the Family (325395) 6.50  
 New Role for Men (615115) 7.15 *See*  
 Hear Breakfast News (2187538) 7.30  
*Yellow Dusk* (500422) 7.50 *Blue Planet*  
 (501653) 8.15 *Charlie Chalk* (554080)  
 8.30 *Lesse* (48465) 9.00 *The World*  
*Well* (1005450) 9.15 *Turner and*  
*Switzerland* (5561557) 10.00 *Playdays*  
 (2513489) 10.25 *The Champions*  
 (8340064) 11.15 *The Phil Sivers Show*  
 (2520552) 11.40 *Flash Gordon's Trip to*  
*Mars* (2335338) 12.00 *Ken Harris's Hot*  
*Woks* (26248) 12.30 *Working Lunch*  
 (87847) 1.00 *Charlie Chalk* (98636285)  
 1.15 *FILM: Third Finger Left Hand* (1840  
 b/w) Comedy starring Myrna Loy and  
 Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Robert Zi  
 Leonard (80011170)  
 2.50 A WEEK TO REMEMBER (310844)  
 3.00 News (720422) 3.05 *The Natural*  
*World* (2543460) 3.55 *News* (501982)  
 4.00 *Today's the Day* (441) 4.30 *Ready*  
*Steady, Cook* (625) 5.00 *Esther* (7793)  
 5.30 *Going, Going, Gone* (977)  
 6.00 SPACE PRECINCT (9) (7) (848441)  
 6.45 AS SEEN ON TV (452826)  
 7.00  1914-18: *Mutiny By 1917* the  
 slack of war was beginning to  
 show on both the battle and home fronts  
 (b/w) (316893)  
 7.50 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS  
 The tests undertaken by children, who  
 are currently fighting in conflicts in thirty  
 two countries around the world (582511)  
 8.00 HORIZON: *Molecules with*  
*Singlases* Charting the work of a  
 British chemist and his colleagues who  
 won the Nobel Prize for their research;  
 which resulted in a third form of carbon  
 being identified (7) (71651)  
 8.50 GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO  
 Highlights from recent programmes (7)  
 (679751)  
  
 Louise Alkins as Glaucon (9.00pm)  
 9.00  WRINKLED WOMEN: KING  
 GIRL: Gripping drama about  
 an all-girl gang who virtually destroy the  
 life of a naive girl who is grieving for her  
 dead father. With Louise Alkins and Cathy  
 Purcell (216731)  
 10.15 MATCH OF THE DAY The FA Cup third  
 round draw, live (28847)  
 10.30 NEWSNIGHT (7) (555793)  
 11.15 A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS: *Assisted*  
*Conception* (627793)  
 11.45 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS

**12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (41652)**  
**12.30 THE LEARNING ZONE: OU: —**  
 Women Artists (27584) 1.00 Managing  
 Schools (84132) 1.30 Managing in  
 Organisations (51710) 2.00 Living  
 Islam/Faith to Faith (98861) 4.00 Italian  
 2000 (89403) 4.30 Defeating Disease  
 (89497) 5.00 Pathways to Care (57300)

**CHOICE**

**1914-18: Mudmy**  
BBC2, 7.00pm  
The history of the First World War moves on to 1917 and contains two arresting moments. One is where a Russian historian asserts that the war was the main cause of the revolutions which brought Lenin to power. In one sentence he rejects the conventional wisdom that the events of 1917 had their roots far back in Russian history. More startling particularly as it is being shown publicly for the first time, is footage of the effects of the shock on British and French soldiers. No doubt they were shocked even at the *Bat Barker's Day Regeneration Library*, can match the sight of one man twirling uncontrollably as another diving under a bed at the word "bomb". No wonder there were mutinies in the Russian and French armies who thought that Stegried Sassoon wrote him almost less and more times denouncing the war as evil and unjust.

**Survive: Mountains of the Snow Leopards**  
ITV, 8.00pm  
The collapse of communism has opened up areas long barred to Western camera crews. Joel Bennett's two-part documentary was shot in Mongolia and is concerned with the wildlife of a country three times the size of Britain with only two million people. The story is the rare and elusive snow leopard seldom seen even by Mongolians and its particular challenge for a visiting filmmaker. But Bennett is nothing if not persistent and after a month of trekking and tracking he finally gets his footage. But if the big cat is a coup for Bennett, the business of making a film about a predator which cannot stalk and kill their domestic animals. Conservationists have a hard battle in the only country which allows the commercial hunting of snow leopards.

**Wicked Women: King Girl**  
BBC2, 9.00pm  
Phibbea McDonald's bleak drama about a school bully was inspired by the Jamie Stairs case. It tells how a girl does not believe that the boys who killed Jamie were evil. The teenage applies to the Fictional Glen, a policeman played with horrifying conviction by a 16-year-old newcomer, Louise Atkinson. Glen's target is a classmate, Kai [another fine debut performance, by Cathy Purcell]. She is not only Kai's predator which cannot stalk and kill their domestic animals. Conservationists have a hard battle in the only country which allows the commercial hunting of snow leopards.

**Star Lines: Douglas Bader**  
Channel 4, 9.00pm  
The hearty, courageous Battle of Britain hero portrayed by Kenneth More in *Reach for the Sky* was certainly part of the reason why Stairs got such publicity. The business of Stairs lives to chip away at legends and this is no different. The result, however, is a modification of the Kenneth More image, not a total debunk. Bader's loveless childhood is

which lost him both his legs was entirely caused by his own recklessness. His second wife admits that people either loved him or loathed him and there is no shortage of former RAF colleagues ready to criticise his bluster, selfishness and insensitivity. But there is plenty of admiration as well, for his inspirational leadership and fearless refusal

5.00am GMTV (7092557)  
8.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (T) (4011835)  
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (5905035)  
10.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE (49286;  
10.30 THIS MORNING (6033977)  
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (3229503)  
12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9815052)  
12.55 CORONATION STREET (T) (937151)  
2.00 Home and Away (T) (518620) 2.25 Cross Vite (T) (5815593) 2.55 Look and Cook (5833642)  
3.20 NEWS (T) (7216712)  
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (7215033)  
3.30 TOTS TV (7056885) 3.40 The Slow North (1396006) 3.50 Cinderella — A Wicked Witch and Giants Special (345592) 4.05 Sooty and Co (1915847) 4.25 A New Antinamics (1991257) 4.50 How (9955508)  
5.10 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (7472625)  
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (9815052)  
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (T) (487809)  
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (638422)  
7.00 THE LIST (4083)  
7.30 CORONATION STREET Tricia called to see Mike at the factory (T) (8500000)



The rare snow leopard (8.00pm)

8.00  SURVIVAL: Moundrils of the Snow Leopard — The Quest 1/12 (T) (3731)  
8.30 POLICE, CAMERA, ACTION! Alastair Stewart on a series of live assignments with helicopter news journalist Bob Tuohy (2/2) (T) (9538)  
9.00 MOLL FLANNERY in the final episode: Moll turns to fleeing when she finds herself penniless in London, but is soon caught and sentenced to hang at Newgate Prison (T) (5808)  
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (47731)  
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (763335)  
10.40 FILM: And the Sea Will Tell (1991) With Richard Crenna and Rachel Ward. Based on a true story. A man and a woman are charged with murder six years after married couple disappeared from the yacht in the Pacific. Directed by Tomm L. Wallace (T) (2462404)  
1.00am BUSHELL ON THE BOX (69558)  
1.30 FILM: WITHOUT A TRACE (1983) starring Kate Nelligan, Judd Hirsch and David Dukey. A mother whose husband has left her returns home to find her

3.40 JONES AND JURY (69017687)  
4.05 COACH (r) (26841584)  
4.30 THE TIME... THE PLACE (76923)  
5.00 AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER (r)  
(51126)

**CENTRAL**

**As HTV West except:**  
12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9893793);  
1.25 CROSS WITS (30444354)  
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29827625)  
2.20 BLUE HEELERS (9546880)  
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7472625)  
6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (638422)  
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (408)  
10.40 CRIME STALKER (755606)  
11.40 MAX MONROE LOOSE CANNON  
(888793)  
12.35pm BEYOND REALITY (8372590)  
1.00 FOOTBALL LEAGUE (7828316)  
1.45 CUSTOMS CLASSIFIED (6790652)  
2.30 JONES AND JURY (4995381)  
2.55 Film: CHILDREN OF CHANCE  
(4076478)  
4.35 JOBSINDER (1774923)

**WESTCOUNTRY**

**As HTV West except:**  
1.25-1.55 CROSSWITS (30444354)  
1.55 HOME AND AWAY (2145060)  
2.25 FRANCES BISSELL  
WESTCOUNTRY CHRISTMAS  
(58616593)  
2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (8839642)  
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7472625)  
6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (59084)  
7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (408)  
10.40 IN SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE  
(755606)  
11.40 BEYOND REASON (728064)  
12.10pm MERIDIAN WORKS (2423294)

**MERIDIAN**

**As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WIT**  
(9893793) 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (3044435)  
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (2145060)  
2.25-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (9547151) 5.1  
HOME AND AWAY (7472625) 6.1  
MERIDIAN TONIGHT (541) 6.30 PERFECT  
PETS (96) 7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S PRICE  
RIGHT (4083) 10.40 IN SUSPICIOUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES (755606) 11.40 BEYON  
REASON (728064) 12.10pm MERIDIA  
WORKS (2423294)

**ANGLIA**

**As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WIT**  
(9893793) 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (3044435)  
1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (2145060)  
2.25-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (9547151) 5.1  
HOME AND AWAY (7472625) 6.1  
ANGLIA NEWS (99) 7.00-7.30 BRUCE'S  
PRICE IS RIGHT (4083)

**S4C**

**Starts: 6.30am TAKE FIVE (23248) 7.00**  
**THE BIG BREAKFAST (84947) 8.00 HERE'S ONE**  
**MADE EARLIER (24890) 9.30 FIN**  
**TREASURE ISLAND (5571903) 11.2**  
**UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS (938133)**  
**11.50 AUSTRALIA WILD (4712) 12.00**  
**RIGHT TO REPLY (4644) 12.30pm LIFT O**  
**(721) 1.00 SLOT METHERIN (5406) 1.3**  
**(7915) 2.00 SLOTT 1.50 Film: THE FOUR**  
**FEATHERS (8478664) 4.00 FIFTEEN-T**  
**ONE (509) 4.30 THE LONELY PLANET (79**

(498915) 6.35 SION A SIAN (847354) 7.0.  
POBOL Y CWIM (798847) 7.25 Y SYD A  
BEDWAR (949460) 8.00 BACHA HI O'M  
(1373) 8.30 NEWYDDION (2080) 9.0.  
FRASIER (6151) 10.00 SGORIO (6538) 11.0.  
THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATC  
(307373) 12.20am TRANS WORLD SPOR  
(4811519) 1.20 WOMEN AT PLAY (5747955)


**CHANNEL 4**

**6.30am TAKE FIVE (S)** (23248)  
**7.00am THE BIG BREAKFAST (S)** (8547)  
**9.00am HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (2488)  
**9.30 FILM: Treasure Island** (1934, b/w) *MGM version of a Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, with Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper. Directed by Victor Fleming. (T) (55719083)*

**11.25 UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS**  
*Animation (8311335) 11.30 Australia W*  
*(T) (T) (4712) 12.00 Right To Reply (T)*  
*(44544) 12.30pm Lift Off (T) (72315) 1.15*  
*Sesame Street (S) (170) 2.00 Quail*  
*Control Comedy short (84309460)*

**2.15 FILM: Take Me Out to the Ball Game**  
*(1949, b/w) A musical starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra as vaudevillians who spend their summers as professional baseball players. Directed by Busby Berkeley. (T) (414606)*

**4.00 FIFTEEN TO ONE (T)** (809) .  
**4.30 COUNTERDOWN: The Search for the Supreme Champion** (T) (793)  
**5.00 THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW**  
*(2546373)*  
**5.45 POND LIFE (T)** (204002)  
**6.00 MOVIEWATCH** *Four young reviewers from Manchester offer their opinions of the latest releases (266)*  
**6.30 HOLLYOAKS (T)** (538)  
**7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T)** (763977)  
**7.55 THE SLOT** (847688)  
**8.00 DESPERATELY SEEKING SOMETHING** *Pete McCarthy is in Ireland where he is initiated into the Fellowship (S) (1379)*  
**8.30 THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW** *Garry Shandling introduces reports made by holidaymakers from Cowes, Margate and Almeria (T) (2060)*



**Pilot Douglas Bader (9.00pm)**

**9.00 OFFICE SECRET LIVES: DOUGLAS BADER** *A frank portrait of the Second World War air ace (T) (8151)*

**10.00 HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET** *Bayliss suspects there is a connection between a cab's murder and the 1970s juvenile murder case he worked on which was never solved (T) (6538)*

**11.00 THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BATTLE** *Monty Griddon action introduced by Gary Imlach (307373)*

**12.20am TRANS WORLD SPORT** (4811515)  
**1.20am BLOOD, SWEAT AND GLORY** *A history*

**4.15 FILM: Land Without Music** (1936, b/w) Vintage British musical starring Richard Tauber, directed by Walter Forster (5840619). Ends at 5:25

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

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**Kirk Douglas** in *Ace in the Hole*

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(Sky Movies Gold, 4.00pm)

**THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**

Film, features and classic series every day from 8pm-1am Monday to Sunday and 1pm-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-1am every day on cable.

7/11/87 31  
 Watchdog  
 Basic 4.00pm  
 Roadshow  
 (7/17/87) 31  
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**UK GOLD**

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## FIGHTING 42

BAe back in the hunt for £100bn contract

# BUSINESS

## SAILING 43

Airtours heads for calmer profit waters



MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

## BCCI victims to receive first payment

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SOME 30,000 creditors of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which collapsed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, are set to receive their first, long-awaited "dividend" payments this week.

The BCCI payments, which will be sent by cheque and electronic transfer to 130 countries, will be the equivalent of 24p in the pound. Deloitte & Touche, the UK liquidator of the failed bank, said this week-end that it hopes to make a second payment within the next year.

It is understood that the second payout could be in the order of 10 per cent, although this will depend on the outcome of some of the hundreds of outstanding court actions being taken to recover further funds.

The bulk of the first BCCI dividend comes from the \$1.55 billion paid to the liquidators by the Government of Abu

Dhabi, the bank's principal shareholder. The kingdom's Government is set to pay a further \$150 million in April 1998, with a final payment of \$100 million shortly after.

In addition to this money the liquidators have recovered a further \$503 million, chiefly from the United States.

Those in charge of the payouts to creditors are hoping that legal actions, including those against the Bank of England, BCCI's regulator in the UK, and Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse, the bank's auditors, could further swell the dividend pot. Other parties that had interests in BCCI could still face fresh litigation.

The payments to BCCI creditors have been delayed after a series of legal challenges, chiefly in the Luxembourg courts, but also to a lesser extent in the United Kingdom.

Deloitte & Touche and Louis White and Durant, the

bank's lawyers, earned fees of \$285.6 million up to January this year for work done on the BCCI case.

There are some 250,000 BCCI creditors worldwide, 38,000 of whom are based in the UK, not all of whom will be included in the first cheque run.

The Deposit Protection Scheme, administered by the Bank of England, has paid out £78 million in compensation to 16,000 depositors. The Bank initially identified 53,000 sterling accounts, but only 40,000 of these left contact addresses, and in the end only 16,000 claimed their compensation.

The BCCI collapse triggered investigations in the UK by the Bank and the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO inquiry, the largest undertaken by the fraud office to date, has so far resulted in the conviction of four people, including that of Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, head of the bank's overseas treasury division.

He was extradited from France and sentenced to six years in prison in September 1993 after pleading guilty to 16 specimen charges of false accounting totalling \$740 million between 1982 and 1986. This autumn the former BCCI executive was released from prison in Britain after further charges against him were dropped.

In September this year the SFO began its current prosecution against Abbas Gokal, chairman of the Gulf Group, over allegations of fraud and false accounting. One charge mentions \$1.2 billion, the largest single sum ever used in an indictment against an individual.

John Moscow, deputy chief of investigations in New York who looked into the BCCI collapse, described to a London conference of fellow fraudbusters and leading international bankers last week the quality of BCCI's paperwork and how he found one note for a \$100 million loan with a scribbled message "as per your request". He said: "It was a joy to behold. No details. No names. Nothing. Nice, sweet and fraudulent."



On another Planet: Tiger Woods is set to drive into the star-studded theme restaurant chain by taking a share stake

## Planet teeing up Tiger Woods

By KEITH RODGERS

PLANET Hollywood, the star-studded theme restaurant chain run by Robert Earl, is set to announce a further coup with the signing of Tiger Woods, the 20-year-old golfing prodigy.

Woods, tipped to emerge as the world's greatest ever golfer, is expected to take a stake in Planet Hollywood, joining the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis. His involvement follows a concerted effort

by the chain in recent months to quash rumours that some of its stars, who own around 17 per cent of the company, might be preparing to sell up. The speculation, which Mr Earl said had "absolutely no substance whatsoever", came after the end of a lock-in period in which the stars were unable to trade their shares.

Celebrity support has been a key factor in the success of the company, which floated

on the US Nasdaq Exchange earlier this year and is now capitalised at around \$2.5 billion. The rumours sent its shares down to \$18 from a high of \$32, a fall that was fuelled when a number of long-term warrant holders sold out. The share price has since recovered to \$24.

A number of sporting celebrities, including tennis stars Andre Agassi and Monica Seles, are already affiliated to the Official All-Star Café.

Planet Hollywood's sports-themed restaurants in New York and Mexico. In January the company is expected to announce plans to open an All-Star Café in London.

The publicity campaign continued apace last week when the three film stars were on hand in Las Vegas to publicise the Planet Hollywood Casino, a joint venture with ITT Corporation, the hotel chain, which is due to open in early 1999.

## Analysts look for bounce in shares

By FRASER NELSON

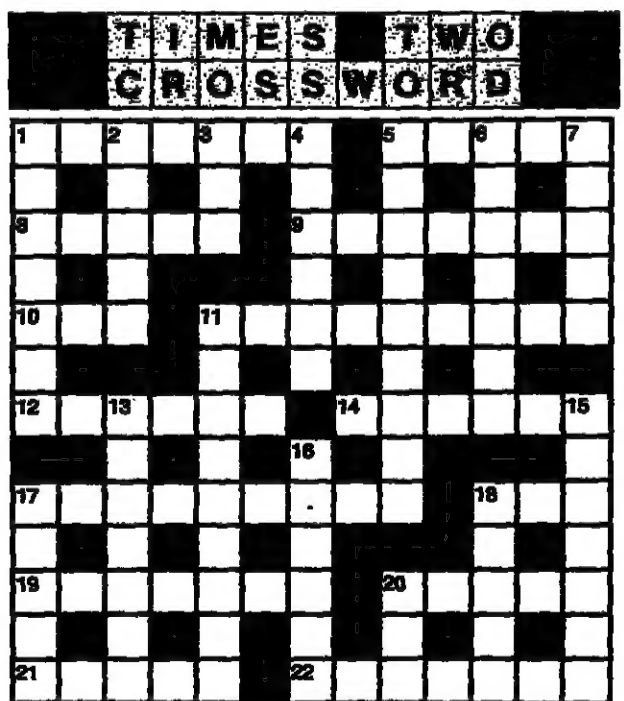
ANALYSTS are looking for a partial recovery in share prices this morning, hoping that Friday's last-minute upturn on Wall Street, after the close of play in London, will prompt a bounce in the world's financial markets.

However, dealers are braced for another jittery week everywhere. In London doubts over the timing of the next rise in interest rates coincide with fears of further political shocks.

Japan's Nikkei index, which led the global share plunge on Friday, was the only major index not to show modest recovery by the

close of trading on Friday. A survey by Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, shows that the crash came just two days after Japanese fund managers became net sellers of their domestic equities for the first time in 18 months.

That report suggests that Thursday's speech by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, mirrored concerns in Tokyo's investment houses. Their concern, the survey said, was not shared by British fund managers, who were last week seeking to increase their exposure to Japanese stocks.



No 960

- ACROSS**
- Intensive-revision college (7)
  - Protective shield (Zulu's, orig.) (5)
  - Ponder obsessively; a hunched family (5)
  - Colonist (7)
  - Head (slang); teachers' union (3)
  - Young bird (9)
  - One checking food for poison (6)
  - Sausage; firework (6)
  - Very sensitive to unpleasant sights (5)
  - Offer; command (3)
  - Roman temple; US Congress building (7)
  - Valley's capital (5)
  - Marshy grass (5)
  - Reduce in numbers, strength (7)
- DOWN**
- Casting; type of pudding (7)
  - Take as one's own (5)
  - Wet earth; mistle's name (5)
  - Less prudent; some bacon (6)
  - Famous signature (9)
  - Decorating, esp. the lily (7)
  - A spray; small nail (5)
  - Swan port, near Perth (9)
  - Unable to answer; out (cricket) (7)
  - Obstructive bureaucracy (3,4)
  - Sent invoice; down to appear (6)
  - Hosiery (5)
  - Swelling (5)
  - Plan of country (3)

## SOLUTION TO NO 959

ACROSS: 1 Panic button 7 Revel 8 Towpath 10 Layabout 11 Menu 13 Potato 15 Bustle 17 Tuna 18 Cordelia 21 Hurting 22 Tempt 23 Mystery tour

DOWN: 1 Purple patch 2 Navy 3 Celibate 4 Untrue 5 Town 6 Nearest 9 Housemaster 12 Punditry 14 Tantrum 16 Tugboat 19 Limbo 20 Digs

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